Proposal Slashes Federal Funding to Urban Schools

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 -- The nation’s urban public schools stand to lose some $615 million in federal Title I aid under a congressional proposal to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) according to an analysis conducted by the Council of the Great City Schools.

The losses come from a proposal approved by the House Education and Workforce Committee in H.R. 5 on February 11, 2015. The provision, called portability, would effectively redirect Title I funds for disadvantaged students away from some of the nation’s poorest inner-city schools and into more affluent schools and neighborhoods.

The portability provision has two primary effects:

- It would transfer money from school districts with high concentrations of poor children to school districts that are more well off, and
- It would transfer money within a school district from the poorest schools to more affluent schools.

Coupled with the repeal of the current 40 percent poverty threshold for using Title I funds school-wide – thereby allowing Title I allocations to benefit any student within a school – H.R. 5 would diminish the support intended to offset the impact of concentrations of poverty on learning.

The losses could result in a reduction of nearly 7,000 teaching positions across the nation’s urban schools, cutbacks in professional development and instructional coaching, less resources for textbooks and instructional materials, a loss of after-school and summer programs, and a decline in counseling and other student supports for urban schoolchildren.

“This provision in H.R. 5 would be a tragic reallocation of scarce federal resources away from the schools and students with the greatest needs,” said Michael Casserly, Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools. “This would dilute the original federal intention of marshalling resources to bolster educational opportunity for poor students.”

The House of Representatives is expected to vote on the proposal by the end of February. This proposal would negatively impact nearly all urban school districts and thousands of other high-poverty school districts nationwide. (See attached table for local impact on individual Great City School Districts.) ###
## Impact of H.R. 5 Portability Provision on the Great City Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Great City School District</th>
<th>Title I Allocation</th>
<th>Title I Allocation</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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<td>Title I Allocation HR 5 - Portability</td>
<td>Difference</td>
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Council of the Great City Schools - TOTAL LOSS: **-$615,176,172**

* Estimates unavailable for statewide Local Educational Agencies*