

**NO on Miller/Pelosi NCLB Reauthorization Proposal
Don't Let Congress Punish Our Students, Teachers and Schools - AGAIN
Talking Points
September 10, 2007**

The federal No Child Left Behind Act is hurting our students, teachers and schools. And the reauthorization proposal by Representative George Miller and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi does nothing to improve the current law. It actually makes it worse.

- California teachers are calling on Congress to vote NO on the NCLB reauthorization proposal by Representative George Miller and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. It does nothing to improve the law or student learning and will actually make it harder for students, teachers and public schools.
- The Miller/Pelosi reauthorization plan continues to measure student and school success based on standardized test scores and fails to include multiple measures like attendance rates, graduation rates, a rigorous curriculum, and the number of students participating in honors or advanced placement courses. This focus on testing forces teachers to teach to the test and has decimated programs like art, music, social studies and physical education.
- The Miller/Pelosi reauthorization proposal continues to punish lower-performing schools, rather than providing assistance and resources to help all students and schools succeed. It creates four new levels of sanctions for struggling schools. This year NCLB labeled one out of every five California public schools as failing.

The Miller/Pelosi NCLB reauthorization bill will make it harder to attract and retain quality teachers in California classrooms.

- It creates a new federal mandate to pay and evaluate teachers based on student test scores. Test scores don't fairly measure student achievement and cannot accurately evaluate and pay teachers.
- California needs 100,000 new teachers in the next 10 years. This proposal will make it harder to get the quality teachers we so desperately need in our classrooms.
- Paying teachers based on student test scores will result in more teaching to the test and will end up driving teachers away from lower-performing schools – the very schools that need help the most.
- Research shows that merit pay schemes tied to student test scores have not improved student achievement and have been abandoned in many states where they were tried, because they were not working.

The Miller/Pelosi NCLB reauthorization bill imposes new federal mandates that undermine local control and employee rights.

- The Miller/Pelosi reauthorization plan undermines local control and erodes employee rights. It imposes hundreds of federal government mandates on California schools rather than letting local teachers, parents and school districts decide what's best for their students.
- The reauthorization proposal undermines teachers' rights to bargain issues such as pay, working conditions and other programs that directly impact local students and schools.
- California teachers work for local school districts, not the federal government. This bill's attempt to mandate a particular evaluation or compensation process is an unprecedented federal infringement on teacher rights. It's offensive and disrespectful to educators.

Rather than punishing students and teachers, NCLB should provide proven reforms that improve student learning.

- Rather than wasting billions of dollars on more bureaucracy, paperwork and testing, NCLB should focus on reforms that work. Congress should restore and enhance the federal class size reduction program, with priority given to our schools of greatest need.
- California has some of the largest class sizes in the country and ranks 49th in the number of teachers per student. Research shows that smaller class sizes improve student learning and significantly close the achievement gap.
- NCLB should provide resources for quality teacher training, mentors for new teachers and programs that enhance parental and family involvement in our schools.