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*Executive Director*

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Higher Education & Workforce Development  
House Committee on Education & the Workforce  
2434 RHOB  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Davis  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Higher Education & Workforce Development  
House Committee on Education & the Workforce  
1214 LHOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Davis:

NCSL supports H.J. Res. 58, a resolution of disapproval blocking U.S. Department of Education regulations regarding institutions of teacher preparation. The resolution would stop a rule finalized in October 2016. NCSL previously commented on the proposed rule and a subsequent reopening of the proposed rule, saying the regulation “goes beyond the statutory requirements of the Higher Education Act (HEA) and fails to recognize the authority of states and localities to govern education.” In both sets of comments, NCSL called on the department to withdraw the regulation.

NCSL does not support federal definition of the indicators states will use to assess the performance of their teacher preparation institutions. NCSL continues to believe that the department vastly underestimated the burden of these regulations. NCSL also believes that these regulations would negatively impact equity in education by incentivizing the placement of new teachers in high-needs schools, and by negatively impacting program eligibility for federal TEACH grants.

States remain committed to improving the teaching profession, and will continue to find innovative ways to improve teacher preparation without federal mandates. If this rule remains in place, energy and effort, as well as funding, would be directed toward meeting the requirements of these regulations and away from innovation and reform in teacher preparation programs and the profession.

Sincerely,

William T. Pound  
Executive Director, NCSL

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