

March 29, 2010

The Honorable George Miller, Chairman  
House Committee on Education and Labor  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Kline, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Education and Labor  
1210 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member Kline:

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to ensure that authorizing language for Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs) remains in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and to oppose consolidation under Expanding Educational Options budget authority, as proposed under the President's FY11 Budget.

The PIRC program is the *sole* federal program dedicated to engaging families in their children's education. We cannot hope to achieve the President's goal of having the highest proportion of students in the world graduating from college by 2020 without partnering with families. Research demonstrates that family engagement improves student achievement, attendance, and behavior regardless of parents' education level, ethnicity, or socioeconomic background. Teachers have also identified parent involvement as one of the most critical and effective components for improving public education. Annually, PIRCs serve over 16 million parents in all 50 states; almost three quarters of these parents are low-income and over half are parents with children who are limited English proficient.

Schools, districts and states rely on PIRCs for technical assistance and capacity to implement research-based approaches to engage families, such as conducting parent leadership academies, leading professional development for educators on partnering with parents, and placing trained family engagement coordinators in schools. PIRCs set aside almost one third of their funds for evidence-based early education programs that support children and families. Consolidation and proposed elimination would direct funding away from proven and innovative strategies that engage parents and raise student achievement across a child's lifespan and in all learning settings.

Moreover, the consolidation of this program will prevent PIRCs from serving *all* families with children in public schools. The PIRCs do not share the same focus as charter schools and public school choice programs, the programs under which they are consolidated. In fact, 1 out of 5 states lack charter school legislation, which means that without PIRCs, public schools and districts will not have statewide support and capacity to engage parents. As of January 2010, charter school enrollment accounted for only 2.5% of all public school students. The impact of this consolidation would be particularly devastating in rural communities, where there are fewer options for charters and school choice. It is critical that *all* schools and communities have a vehicle for engaging parents to close the achievement gap and drive school reform.

We urge you to safeguard this critical program and support teachers and students through meaningful partnerships between parents and schools. Thank you for your commitment to our nation's children and families.

Sincerely,

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)  
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)  
The American School Counselor Association

Afterschool Alliance  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
ASPIRA Association, Inc.  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)  
Children & Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)  
Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters USA (HIPPI USA)  
Knowledge Alliance  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Mental Health America  
Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF)  
National Alliance of Black School Educators  
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth  
National Association of Elementary School Principals  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
National Black Police Association  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education  
National Collaboration for Youth  
National Council of La Raza  
National Education Association  
National Network of Partnership Schools  
National Parent Teacher Association  
National School Boards Association  
National Staff Development Council (NSDC)  
Parents as Teachers (PAT)  
Parents for Public Schools  
Parental Involvement Exchange  
Phi Delta Kappa International  
Prevent Child Abuse America  
Public Education Network  
The Dibble Institute  
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries  
United Way Worldwide

### **Alabama**

Alabama Network for Children with Disabilities  
Alabama Parent Teacher Association  
Alabama Parent Education Center  
Alabama Parent Information and Resource Center

### **Alaska**

Alaska Parent Teacher Association  
Southeast Regional Resource Center  
Yup'it School District

### **Arizona**

Arizona Parent Teacher Association  
Arizona State Parent Information and Resource Center  
Chandler Education Foundation

**Arkansas**

Batesville School District- Parents as Teachers  
Arkansas Parent Teacher Association  
Arkansas Parents as Teachers  
Jones Trust

**California**

California Association for Bilingual Education/CA PIRC-1  
California Parent Teacher Association  
Cambridge Academies  
A World Fit For Kids!

**Colorado**

Clayton Early Learning  
Colorado HIPPIY  
Colorado Parent Teacher Association  
Colorado Parent & Child Foundation  
Colorado Parents as Teachers  
Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition  
Family Development Center, Steamboat Springs  
Rocky Mountain Parents as Teachers

**Connecticut**

Connecticut Parent Teacher Association  
CT State Education Resource Center.  
Jefferson Family Resource Center  
Smalley Family Resource Center

**Delaware**

Delaware Parent Teacher Association  
Kent County Parents as Teachers  
Parent Information Center of Delaware, Inc.

**Department of Defense Schools**

European Parent Teacher Association

**District of Columbia**

Multicultural Community Service, Washington, D.C.  
Roosevelt Senior High School Parent Student Teacher Association  
Teaching for Change  
Washington, D.C. Parent Teacher Association

**Florida**

Columbia Even Start Family Literacy  
Family Network on Disabilities  
Florida Parent Teacher Association  
Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison, & Taylor Counties  
Taylor County Even Start  
Taylor County Pre-K

**Georgia**

Communities In Schools of GA  
Georgia Parent Teacher Association  
Georgia Parents as Teachers Network  
United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta

**Guam**

Guam Parent Information and Resource Center  
Guam Positive Parents Together, Inc.

**Hawaii**

Hawaii Parent Teacher Association  
Parents and Children Together

**Idaho**

Family Advocates/Idaho PIRC  
Idaho Parent Teacher Association

**Illinois**

A Star Is Born Birth to 3/Little Stars Pre-K  
Center for Community Arts Partnerships  
Happy Time Education Center  
Illinois Parent Teacher Association  
Kiddie Kollege of Fairfield  
Wayne City Early Learning Center  
Wayne County Family Enrichment Program

**Indiana**

Indiana Parent Teacher Association  
Indiana Partnerships Center  
Lake Station Schools Parents As Teachers  
Mental Health America of Lake County  
Owen County Learning Network

**Iowa**

Adams County Parents as Teachers  
Iowa Parent Information Resource Center  
Iowa Parent Teacher Association  
Loren Children's Learning Center  
Lutheran Services in Iowa  
School Administrators of Iowa

**Kansas**

Kansas Families and Schools Together, Inc.  
Kansas Parent Teacher Association  
PATHS (Parents as Teachers/Early Head Start)

**Kentucky**

Center for Parent Leadership  
Kentucky Parent Teacher Association  
United Way of Northern Kentucky

**Louisiana**

Louisiana Parent Teacher Association  
Volunteers of America North Louisiana

**Maine**

Maine Parent Federation, Inc.  
Maine Parent Teacher Association

**Maryland**

Maryland Parent Teacher Association  
Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, Inc

**Marshall Islands**

Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL)  
Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC) – RMI PIRC  
Women United Together in the Marshall Islands

**Massachusetts**

Federation for Children with Special Needs  
Massachusetts Parent Teacher Association

**Michigan**

Life Services Parent Center  
Michigan Parent Teacher Association  
Michigan Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC)

**Minnesota**

Minnesota Parent Teacher Association  
PACER Center

**Mississippi**

Community Students Learning Center/ MSPIRC  
Mississippi Parent Teacher Association

**Missouri**

Doniphan R-1 Parents as Teachers  
Doniphan R-1 School District  
Marshall Public Schools Parents as Teachers  
Missouri Parent Teacher Association  
Missouri PIRC at LIFT  
Montgomery Co. R-II Parents as Teachers  
Republic Parents as Teachers

**Montana**

Montana Parent Teacher Association  
Women's Opportunity & Resource Development, Inc (WORD)

**Nebraska**

Nebraska Children & Families Foundation  
Nebraska Parent Teacher Association

**Nevada**

Nevada Parent Teacher Association  
Nevada State PIRC at the Education Alliance of Washoe County

**New Hampshire**

New Hampshire Parent Teacher Association  
The Parent Information Center of New Hampshire

**New Jersey**

Caring For Kids  
New Jersey Parent Teacher Association  
Prevent Child Abuse-New Jersey

**New Mexico**

New Mexico Parent Teacher Association  
Parents Reaching Out

**New York**

EPIC-Every Person Influences Children  
New York State Parent Teacher Association

**North Carolina**

Exceptional Children's Assistance Center  
North Carolina Parent Teacher Association  
Richmond County Partnership for Children  
Teen Parents as Teachers

**North Dakota**

Even Start Family Literacy Program  
North Dakota Parent Teacher Association  
Pathfinder Parent Center

**Ohio**

Ohio Parent Teacher Association  
United Way of Greater Cincinnati

**Oklahoma**

Oklahoma Parent Information and Resource Center  
Oklahoma Parent Teacher Association

**Oregon**

Families First Parent Resource Center  
Healthy Start of Douglas County  
Oregon Parent Teacher Association

**Pennsylvania**

Pennsylvania Parent Teacher Association  
Family Connection of Easton, Inc.-Easton, PA

**Rhode Island**

Rhode Island Parent Information Network  
Rhode Island Parent Teacher Association  
South County Community Action Parents As Teachers Program

**South Carolina**

FACES Program (Family, Adult, and Children's Educational Services)-- Beaufort County School District  
The Children's Trust of South Carolina-Columbia, SC  
Clover Family Resource Center  
Darlington County First Steps to School Readiness  
Greenwood Community Children's Center  
South Carolina Parent Teacher Association

**South Dakota**

South Dakota Parent Information and Resource Center  
South Dakota Parent Teacher Association  
West River Foundation

**Tennessee**

Tennessee Parent Teacher Association  
Tennessee Voices for Children

**Texas**

East Dallas Community School  
Mental Health America of Texas/Texas Parents as Teachers Program  
Texas Parent Teacher Association

**U.S. Virgin Islands**

U.S. Virgin Island Parent Teacher Association

**Utah**

Children's Service Society  
Even Start Family Literacy Program  
Utah Family Partnership Network  
Utah Parent Teacher Association  
Utah Parents as Teachers

**Vermont**

PIRC-Vermont  
Vermont Parent Teacher Association

**Virginia**

Children's Health Improvement Partnership of New River Valley  
Embrace Diverse Schools-Springfield, VA  
The Parent Institute-Fairfax, VA  
Virginia Parent Teacher Association

**Washington**

Parent Trust for Washington Children (Washington Parents As Teachers State Office)  
Washington State Parent Teacher Association

**West Virginia**

Marshall County Starting Points Center Inc./Parents as Teachers program  
West Virginia Parent Teacher Association

**Wisconsin**

Family Services of Northeast WI  
Parents Plus, Inc.  
Wisconsin Parents as Teachers  
Wisconsin Parent Teacher Association

**Wyoming**

Parents Helping Parents of Wyoming, Inc  
Wyoming Parent Teacher Association