



COMMISSION ON
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

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**LOCAL EDUCATION AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS DISCUSS
HIGH COST OF WAITING TO REAUTHORIZE NCLB**

WASHINGTON, DC—Today the co-chairs for the Commission on No Child Left Behind, Secretary Tommy Thompson and Governor Roy Barnes, joined Congressional and U.S. Department of Education leaders as well as school and community leaders from across the nation in a panel discussion on the high cost of waiting to reauthorize No Child Left Behind.

“This panel has come together with the shared belief that all students, especially poor and minority students, must get the help they need to ensure that they have access to a high-quality education and graduate ready for work and college,” said Secretary Thompson. “We must stop blaming each other, interest groups and politics for the failure to reauthorize NCLB. At the end of the day we still have no bill, and children, teachers and parents are still in need of better schools.”

In reauthorizing NCLB the Commission would like to see all parties come together and agree on the following basic principles in order to move a bill forward:

- Acknowledge the signs of progress in education since the passage of NCLB.
- Accept that improvements must be made in NCLB to continue the positive momentum already made.
- Maintain and strengthen NCLB’s principles of accountability and equity.
- Provide accommodations for innovation and compromise.

“If NCLB is not reauthorized this year there will be no help for the 1.2 million students who will fail to graduate from high school, more than half of whom are students of color,” said Governor Barnes. “We will not see important reforms such as growth models and more accurate assessments for the many poor and minority children who are unaccounted for and left behind. And we will deny more than 5 million English language learner students the help they need to succeed.”

This event was co-sponsored by the Commission along with the Alliance for Excellent Education, the Business Coalition for Student Achievement, the Campaign for High School Equity, the Center for American Progress, the Citizens’ Commission on Civil Rights, The Education Trust, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, and the National Council of La Raza.