



COMMISSION ON
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

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Commission's Recommendations for Reauthorization Included in Senate 'All Students Can Achieve' Bill

WASHINGTON, DC —Today Governor Roy Barnes, Co-Chair for the Commission on No Child Left Behind, joined United States Senators Joseph Lieberman (ID-CT), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), and Norm Coleman (R-MN) in introducing the bipartisan *All Students Can Achieve* bill. The bill includes many of the Commission's recommendations for the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act in the area of improving accountability and data systems, measuring teacher effectiveness, and supporting model national standards.

"The Commission's recommendations reflect what we learned from teachers, researchers, and students and parents across the nation at our public hearings and roundtables, and were developed by our bipartisan group. We're heartened to see such a distinguished group of Senators, from different political parties, including so many of them in this bill," said Governor Barnes.

Over the past eighteen months the bipartisan independent Commission traveled across the country holding 12 public hearings and roundtables, listening to people affected by the law, collecting over 10,000 emails, gathering research and discussing the potential of a new and improved law. In February, the Commission released its 75 recommendations and sent it to the United States Congress as a blueprint to be used for reauthorization.

"The Commission looks forward to working with other Senators and Congressmen who are interested in improving the law," said Barnes. "And, we will continue to follow the lead of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, led by Chairman Kennedy, as it moves through the process of reauthorizing this very important law."

The *All Students Can Achieve* bill features many of the Commission's proposals. The three areas the Commission sees as most critical include:

- **Improving Accountability and Data Systems** - Improves the accuracy and fairness of state accountability systems by requiring states to track longitudinal achievement data on individual students and allowing states to include achievement growth in their AYP calculations.
- **Measuring Teacher Effectiveness** - States will use the same longitudinal data systems that allow them to include student achievement growth in AYP calculations to measure teacher effectiveness in the classroom and to target professional development to the teachers who need the most help.
- **Setting High American Standards** - National model standards and assessments will be available to states who want to increase the rigor of their own standards and assessments to ensure that all children graduate prepared for college and the work place. The standards and assessments of states that choose not to adopt the model national standards will be compared to the national standards and the results will be made public.

Governor Barnes' entire remarks and the Commission's report can be read and downloaded at www.nclbcommission.org.

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