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## **McKeon Statement on NCLB Commission Report**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – After meeting this morning with the Commission on No Child Left Behind's co-chairs, former Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson and former Governor Roy Barnes (D-GA), the U.S. House Education and Labor Committee's Senior Republican, Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (R-CA), issued the following statement on the Commission's report:

*"I'd like to thank Secretary Thompson, Governor Barnes, and the Commission staff for producing this report. It has been a long time in the making, and I think the serious nature with which it will be reviewed by Congress will demonstrate that it has been worth their time and effort.*

*"In the House, we began laying the groundwork for reauthorization last year in a comprehensive, bipartisan series of hearings. I look forward to working closely with Chairman Miller this year in continuing these hearings as we begin reauthorizing the law. At the outset, we must not lose sight of the fact that we've made unmistakable progress in closing the achievement gap over the last five years. Our job now is to build on that progress, not back away from it.*

*"To do this, we must keep accountability and choice as the foundation of this law, and I know my colleagues – and the NCLB Commission – agree on this point. Backing away from these twin priorities would shortchange students and parents who are counting on us to insist on results. Beyond that, I enter this reauthorization with an open mind, and I hope my colleagues do too – on all the recommendations proposed by the Commission, the President, and others. Our shared goals are too important to sacrifice for partisan reasons or to serve special interests, and I hope we keep that in mind as we begin our work."*

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