



**Statement of Amy Wilkins  
Vice President for Government Affairs and Communications**

The test of any recommendations for the reauthorization of NCLB is whether they will make the law a more powerful tool for boosting student achievement overall and closing the achievement gap. The Commission's recommendations, on the whole, meet this test. The Commission's work uses the lessons learned over the past five years to fix many of the flaws of the law and to improve upon its original design—all the while protecting the law's core purposes of closing the achievement gap and improving instruction in our classrooms.

I'm particularly pleased that in their HQET definition the Commission has embraced an approach to evaluating teachers that takes into consideration the learning growth that teachers help students make and the evaluations of their principals rather than just their paper credentials. I'm also pleased with the Commission's clear intent to provide high quality support to schools that are struggling to improve.

The Education Trust looks forward to working with the members of the Commission and its staff in ensure that NCLB becomes a stronger and more effective force for higher student achievement and gap closing.