

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2006

The Honorable Margaret Spellings  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Spellings:

We are writing in support of the Colorado Department of Education's application for participation in the growth-based accountability model pilot program. As we understand it, the purpose of the pilot program is to determine the viability of a longitudinal, individual student growth approach to measuring educational achievements as another means of tracking Adequate Yearly Progress under the No Child Left Behind Act.

Colorado is one of the best prepared states for implementing and testing such a model. The state has consistently met the accountability requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. It has been recognized and allowed to participate in other federal accountability programs because of its work in this area. Colorado recently created the State Assigned Student ID system, which is now tracking all students and their movements across the state. Because Colorado has these strong systems for accountability and individual student tracking, it is an excellent candidate for participation in this pilot program.

We urge the Department of Education to select Colorado as one of the 10 participating states in its growth-based accountability model pilot program. Thank you for your consideration of the Colorado Department of Education's application.

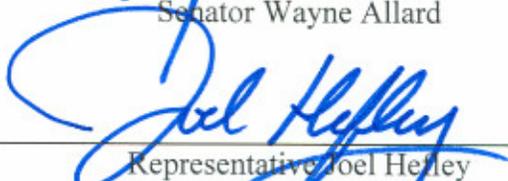
Sincerely,



Senator Wayne Allard



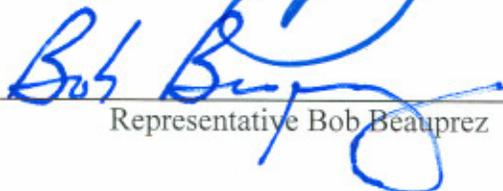
Senator Ken Salazar



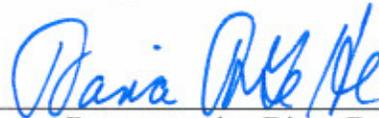
Representative Joel Hefley



Representative Mark Udall



Representative Bob Beauprez



Representative Diana DeGette

Tom Tancredo

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Representative Tom Tancredo

John Salazar

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Representative John Salazar

Marilyn Musgrave

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Representative Marilyn Musgrave

CC: Pam Sukla, Chair, Colorado Board of Education