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Let Teachers Teach!

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Education is the great equalizer in our country. Regardless of one's background, a good, quality education provides a way to success. Parents have been charged with ensuring their children receive that quality education; therefore, parents must be given options to do so. Since each of us is unique and original, meeting the unique needs of each child requires a variety of educational choices and options that can only be done at the local level. Whether a family chooses homeschooling or public education, educational opportunities that ensure high quality and depth of learning must be provided so that each student is grounded in our democratic principles and can be competitive throughout the world.

Moving towards that requires sending powers back to the states and getting federal bureaucrats out of local education decisions. To act on this during my previous time in Congress, I introduced a bill to abolish the [Department of Education](#). This will be one of the first bills I introduce when I'm in Congress again.

We also need to stop the expansion of federal intrusion in education as has become apparent in Common Core and repeal the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), formerly known as No Child Left Behind – which I call “No Teacher Left Unshackled.” This terrible new law is a key example of the continuation of unnecessary, detrimental federal overreach into education.

Sadly, the No Child Left Behind reauthorization bill, now called the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) signed into law by the president in December 2015, was touted as a bipartisan bill that would give control of education back to the states. Establishment Republicans, such as Doug Collins, blindly voted for this bill primarily based upon this one fact, for they saw the bill as a way for states to repeal the unpopular and ineffective Common Core Standards. Had these elected officials bothered to read the 1000+ page bill, they would have realized that this law, with similar revelations as found in Obamacare, does NOT repeal Common Core outright. Likewise, most states will not repeal Common Core either since federal accountability still exists. States who have just bought common-core aligned textbooks and testing, costing millions of dollars, more than likely will NOT totally repeal the standards since new textbooks would have to be purchased and tests would have to be changed yet again with an astronomical price tag. Abolishing the DOE altogether with its expansive regulations and funding mechanisms through convoluted accountability measures would allow states to truly develop the essential education with effective accountability needed within the state.

On top of that, the Omnibus Bill that establishment Republicans, such as Doug Collins, passed provides a revenue stream of \$70.5 billion dollars to the US Department of Education. Not only did the Omnibus increase the budget for the Department of Education, but through its passage,

the bill calls for the creation of other departments within the DOE, such as the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), increasing the 2014 budget of \$17.8 billion dollar for Early Childhood Education by another \$108 million dollars. It also increases the \$14.4 billion Title I Program by \$25 million with college Pell Grants increasing to \$5,830 per student. Additionally, Special Education grants to states are funded at \$11.5 billion due to the Omnibus legislation, which is an additional \$25 million increase over the 2014 budget.

This is unacceptable!

In Congress, I will fight to pass my bill to abolish the Department of Education, to fully and finally repeal No Child Left Behind as prescribed in ESSA, and to put a complete stop to invasive federal regulations and expansive government as established in Common Core once and for all.