



Great Public Schools
for Every Student

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September 24, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to VOTE YES on the Homeland Security Improvement Act (H.R. 2203), which is scheduled to come to the floor tomorrow as the Thompson Manager's Amendment. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

The Thompson Manager's Amendment takes steps to address transparency, accountability, and oversight of policies that affect immigrant children and families at our southwest border. They include, among other provisions:

- Establishing an independent Ombudsman for Border and Immigration Related Concerns within DHS to investigate and address border and immigration-related concerns, including complaints against U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- Directing the ombudsman to appoint a border communities liaison to foster cooperation among ICE, CBP, and border communities through consultation and feedback
- Directing the ombudsman to establish a border oversight panel to evaluate and make recommendations about border enforcement policies, strategies, and programs that affect border communities

In short, this bill aims to help ensure that DHS engages with immigrant children and their families in a responsible and humane manner. We urge you to VOTE YES on H.R. 2203.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association