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December 6, 2021

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 3 million members of the National Education Association, who are dedicated to providing all students with the learning opportunities they deserve, we are proud to support the Strength in Diversity Act of 2021 (H.R. 729).

Educators teach students how to live together respectfully and peaceably in a diverse, interdependent world. This can be challenging when students are learning in bubbles of isolation that expose them only to those who look like them, and whose backgrounds and experiences mirror their own.

Furthermore, racial inequality embedded in housing, employment, and other sectors of our society, and the lack of resources for public education in Black, Brown, Indigenous, and low-income communities, leave many students without the broad and rich curriculum, support services, and extracurricular activities that would nurture them and spark their curiosity and engagement. This may harm students when they are pursuing higher education or work opportunities. It may also deny them the chance to gain important insights that will help them discover their passions—passions that could fuel contributions to their communities and ultimately uplift our nation.

The Strength in Diversity Act will help meet these challenges by providing federal grants to support voluntary local efforts to increase racial and socioeconomic diversity in publicly funded early childhood programs and public K-12 schools. These grants could fund a range of proposals, such as expanding innovative programs that attract students from outside the local area, and recruiting, hiring, and training educators for such programs. The legislation would also fund collaborative programs by districts, recognizing that segregation occurs across district lines.

The Strength in Diversity Act will help bring diverse students together, and provide students in *every* school with the opportunities that students in our *best* schools already have.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association