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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0309**

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We write to urge you to provide at least level funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 for the Teacher Quality Partnership Grant (TQP) program authorized under Title II of the Higher Education Act. The TQP Grant program is the only federal initiative targeted directly to higher education-based teacher preparation programs, and is designed to help ensure that new teachers in high-need schools are profession ready. As institutions of higher education prepare and support nearly 90% of all teachers, a federal investment in reforming and strengthening these programs is critical.


TQP grants support intensive partnerships between high-need school districts, high-need public schools, institutions of higher education, and other eligible entities to prepare profession-ready, highly effective teachers. These grants leverage federal dollars by requiring a 100% match. Grants can reform undergraduate preparation programs or develop teaching residency programs at the graduate level. These partnerships require that programs include at least one year of clinical experience, which research shows is crucial for teacher effectiveness and teacher retention. In addition, grantees must prepare new teachers to teach students with disabilities and English language learners, to use research and data to inform instruction, and to have literacy teaching skills so that upon program completion teachers are fully prepared for the rigors of providing daily classroom instruction. Furthermore, graduates of TQP-funded residency programs must fulfill a three-year teaching obligation in the high-need district in which they were prepared.

TQP grantees have had a major impact on strengthening and reforming teacher preparation and on the quality of teaching in communities across the country. Schools and school districts involved in TQP are seeing improvements in the quality and retention of their teachers and in the

quality of their students' learning experiences and achievements. It is essential to maintain funding for this program so that we can continue the important work of transforming teacher preparation throughout the country while deepening the partnerships with the communities in which they serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to ensure that all of America's students have a profession-ready, high quality teacher in their classroom. Should you have questions or require additional information, please contact Michael Wong in Congresswoman Sinema's office at [Michael.Wong@mail.house.gov](mailto:Michael.Wong@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,




Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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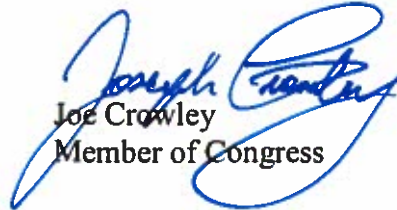
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