

# Dianne Feinstein

*United States Senator for California*

Dear Mr. Ultican :

Thank you for writing to share your thoughts on reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). I appreciate the time you took to write and welcome the opportunity to respond.

I share your belief that every student deserves a high-quality education. Since its enactment in 2001, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act has provided educators and lawmakers with critical data demonstrating the strengths and weaknesses of America's public education system. Fourteen years later, Congress is considering legislation to building on the provisions of NCLB that are working and amending those policies that have problems.

As you may know, the "Every Child Achieves Act" (S. 1177) is a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Public Law 107-110). S. 1177 passed the Senate by a vote of 81 – 17, and will be conferenced with the House reauthorization bill, the "Student Success Act" (H.R. 5).

During consideration of the "Every Child Achieves Act" Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) introduced an amendment that would have required students to be tested at least once during grades three through five; grades six through nine; and grades ten through twelve. His amendment was not considered on the Senate floor during debate of the "Every Child Achieves Act." The bill maintains current federal standards which require yearly testing in math and language arts for public school students in grades three through eight and once in high school.

I recognize that standardized tests have clear limitations and are not a cure-all for our nation's education challenges; however, I also believe testing is an important tool for measuring student and school performance in order to ensure that every child receives a quality education. Standardized testing makes it possible for parents to see the progress their child is making and teachers to know when to correct course in their instruction.

Please know that hearing your thoughts on how we can better serve our students is helpful to me, and I will certainly keep your views in mind should the relevant legislation come to the Senate floor for consideration.

Once again, thank you for your letter. If you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact my Washington, D.C., office at (202) 224-3841. Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

Further information about my position on issues of concern to California and the nation are available at my website, [feinstein.senate.gov](http://feinstein.senate.gov). And please visit my [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for more ways to communicate with me.