



March 22, 2013

The Honorable Arne Duncan
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, I urge the U.S. Department of Education to approve the Education and Secondary Education Act flexibly waiver submitted by districts participating in the California Office to Reform Education (CORE).

The mission of L.A. Chamber is to ensure the continued viability and success of commerce and industries in the Southern California region and has served the Los Angeles region since 1888. With more than 1,600 member businesses that have over 650,000 employees, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce represents 35 business sectors and is the largest Regional Chamber of Commerce in the State of California.

We believe that education is the key to our future success in Los Angeles, California and nationwide. No Child Left Behind rules have forced our schools to aim for a bar that has been set too low for too long and has been much too prescriptive. We are pleased that the districts participating in the CORE Waiver, including the Los Angeles Unified School District, have committed to reach a much higher goal: college and career readiness for all students.

The CORE Waiver recognizes that future success for all students is built on many factors and that a collective effort by the entire school, district, and larger community is required to prepare all students for college and career. Student success is vital for developing successful citizens who will help communities and the economy thrive in California well into the future.

The CORE waiver is a sound plan for improving teaching and learning in nine California districts that collectively serve more than a million students. It is courageous, it will be challenging, but it is the right thing to do.

I urge the U.S. Department of Education to favorably review the CORE Waiver application. The L.A. Chamber looks forward to working with the districts participating in the CORE Waiver as they work to reorient their work around success for all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Toebben".

Gary Toebben
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce