

However, the bill is a significant improvement over the No Child Left Behind Act and the ESEA reauthorization that passed out of the House earlier this year. For example, I was heartened to see that the bill includes academic standards that will prepare students for college and careers, requirements for states to intervene in schools in need of government support, removal of No Child Left Behind's most punitive provisions, and increased monitoring, regulation, and focus on the unique needs of English Language Learners. These provisions are critical to helping underserved students achieve academic and lifelong success.

I was also pleased to see that the ESSA includes strong language to address violence in our schools and communities. For example, it maintains dedicated funding for afterschool programs and makes violence prevention and trauma support efforts eligible for federal funds, provisions which Congresswoman KAREN BASS and I urged in a letter to education leaders last month.

For these reasons, I am proud to stand in support of this bipartisan legislation in order to improve the quality of education received by our country's most vulnerable students.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer the following Joint Statement of Legislative Intent on the Conference Report to accompany S. 1177, the Every Student Succeeds Act, on behalf of myself and Mr. JOHN KLINE, Chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

JOINT STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE INTENT ON
CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY S. 1177,
THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

Like our colleagues, we support this conference report because we believe states and school districts should be left to set their own education priorities. The House-passed bill included strong prohibitions that clearly did just that. The conference report maintains strong, unprecedented prohibitions on the Secretary of Education. For example,

Section 1111(e) clearly states the Secretary may not add any requirements or criteria outside the scope of this act, and further says the Secretary may not "be in excess of statutory authority given to the Secretary." This section goes on to lay out specific terms the Secretary cannot prescribe, sets clear limits on the guidance the Secretary may offer, and also clearly states that the Secretary is prohibited from defining terms that are inconsistent with or outside the scope of this Act.

Then there are provisions in Titles I and VIII that ensure standards and curriculum are left to the discretion of states without federal control or mandates, and the same is true for assessments.

Finally, the conference report also includes a Sense of Congress that states and local educational agencies retain the right and responsibility of determining educational curriculum, programs of instruction, and assessments.

The conference report makes it clear the Secretary is not to put any undue limits on the ability of states to determine their accountability systems, their standards, or what tests they give their students. The clear intent and legislative language of this report devolves authority over education decisions back to the states and severely limits the Secretary's ability to interfere in any way.

Ensuring a limited role for the U.S. Secretary of Education was a critically important priority throughout the reauthorization process and this agreement meets that priority.

For example, the Secretary may not limit the ability of states to determine how the measures of student performance are weighted within state accountability systems. The Secretary also cannot prescribe school support and improvement strategies, or any aspect of a state's teacher evaluation system, or the methodology used to differentiate schools in a state.

Also, the Secretary may not create new policy by creatively defining terms in the law. Let us say definitively, as the Chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee and Subcommittee Chairman of the subcommittee of jurisdiction, this new law reins in the Secretary and ensures state and local education officials make the decisions about their schools under this new law.

Over the past few years, the Secretary has exceeded his authority by placing conditions on waivers to states and local educational agencies. The conference report prevents the Secretary from applying any new conditions on waivers or the state plans required in the law by including language that clearly states the Secretary may not add any new conditions for the approval of waivers or state plans that are outside the scope of the law. In plain English, this means if the law does not give the Secretary the authority to require something, then he may not unilaterally create an ability to do that.

We are glad to be able to support a bill that will return control to states, where it should always be, and appreciate the strong support of colleagues as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 542, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the conference report.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF
CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 22,
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION RE-AUTHORIZATION AND REFORM
ACT OF 2015

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-360) on the resolution (H. Res. 546) providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 22) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE
ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 8.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POLIQUIN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan? There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 542 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 8.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) kindly take the chair.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8) to modernize energy infrastructure, build a 21st century energy and manufacturing workforce, bolster America's energy security and diplomacy, and promote energy efficiency and government accountability, and for other purposes, with Mr. DOLD (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, all time for general debate pursuant to House Resolution 539 had expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 542, no further general debate shall be in order.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce, printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-36. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 8

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the "North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015".

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—MODERNIZING AND PROTECTING INFRASTRUCTURE

Subtitle A—Energy Delivery, Reliability, and Security

Sec. 1101. FERC process coordination.

Sec. 1102. Resolving environmental and grid reliability conflicts.

Sec. 1103. Emergency preparedness for energy supply disruptions.

Sec. 1104. Critical electric infrastructure security.

Sec. 1105. Strategic Transformer Reserve.

Sec. 1106. Cyber Sense.

Sec. 1107. State coverage and consideration of PURPA standards for electric utilities.