

June 19, 2012

Dear Senator:

National PTA, the nation's oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy organization, is writing to **urge your support for Senator Murray's amendment #2455 to S.3240**. The Murray amendment, to be considered tomorrow, June 20, would require the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress a detailed report on the devastating impact of sequestration cuts for both nondefense and defense programs.

The more than five million members of National PTA, comprising parents, family members, teachers, students, administrators, and child advocates in all fifty states, urge you to vote in favor of amendment #2455 and in opposition to Senator McCain's amendment #2162. Senator McCain's amendment would require a detailed report solely for defense programs. PTA believes it is absolutely critical that both Congress and the public have access to information on the impact of sequestration as it relates to all programs – especially those that will directly and immediately impact services to children and families. While details on the impact of sequestration to defense programs is important, PTA asserts that potential negative impact of sequestration on nondefense programs – especially education programs – should be considered in the context of national security and long-term economic competitiveness and prosperity.

Parents, educators, administrators, and communities are in need of detailed information pertaining to affect of sequestration on federal education funding. The timing and flow of federal funding for education to the classroom is complex. It is not clear exactly how funding streams will be affected by sequestration, exactly what the dollar and percentage cut will be for each program, and exactly when the sequestration cuts will take place. It appears that some cuts may occur immediately in the 2012-13 school year starting on January 2, 2013, while others would; start in the 2013-14 school year. Thus far, schools and districts lack the clarity needed to fully understand how sequestration will impact service delivery for the 2012-2013 school year and beyond. However, that is only one dimension of the issue.

As required by the Budget Control Act of 2011, sequestration will result in Fiscal Year 2013 cuts of 8-9 percent to vital education programs including Head Start, Title I, IDEA, Teacher Quality state grants, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, English Language Acquisition state grants and other critical education programs. PTA believes sequestration will inhibit our ability to deliver quality education to every child and ultimately harm our nation's economic health and prosperity.

The Murray amendment is an important first step to ensure that Congress has the information on the negative impact of sequestration to nondefense and defense programs. This information is necessary to developing a bipartisan balanced alternative to replace it.

PTA urges your support of Senator Murray's amendment #2455 to S.3240.

Sincerely,



Betsy Landers
President
National PTA