

Quality Educator Partnerships Act (QEPA)

Endorsing Partner Quotes

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1890 Universities Foundation

"For too long, our national conversation about the educator shortage has focused on recruitment alone. This bill takes the harder, but more necessary step - investing in what actually keeps great educators in the classroom for the long term. The inclusion of the Hawkins program supports 1890 Land-grant institutions like Prairie View A&M University, a direct role in shaping the next generation of educators. The 1890 Universities Foundation is proud to stand behind this legislation."

— Dr. Felecia M. Nave, President and Chief Executive Officer

American Association of School Librarians

"Regardless of local title—media specialist, teacher-librarian, library information specialist—school librarians are essential educators. An investment in school librarians is an investment in student success, especially in high-need schools. The American Association for School Librarians is proud to support the Quality Educator Partnership Act, which recognizes library media specialists as a valuable part of the educator pipeline and offers an opportunity to strengthen the school librarian workforce."

— AASL President, April Dawkins

AFT

"You can't solve the teacher shortage with quick fixes—but you can make serious inroads with a sustained, meaningful investment in the educators who've dedicated their lives to helping children. The Quality Educator Partnership Act makes that commitment real. It strengthens teacher preparation, expands mentorship, supports civil rights enforcement, and ensures our schools have guardrails in place for the digital world."

— Randi Weingarten, President, AFT

American Library Association

"Students in schools with effective school library programs learn more, get better grades, and score higher on standardized tests. The American Library Association applauds Senator Reed and Representative Adams for the Quality Educator Partnership Act, which includes indispensable partners in high-quality education: school librarians and media specialists."

— ALA President, Dr. Maria McCauley

AMLE

As Chair of the AMLE Board of Trustees and a teacher educator whose career has spanned service as a middle school teacher, high school administrator, teacher preparation administrator, and faculty member preparing middle grades educators, I am deeply encouraged by AACTE's leadership in advancing the Quality Educator Partnership Act and strengthening the educator workforce. The inclusion of middle grades language in this legislation recognizes a critical reality: early adolescence is the second most significant period of human development after early childhood, marked by profound cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and identity

formation changes that shape academic success, well-being, and life trajectories. Young adolescents deserve educators who are specifically prepared to understand and respond to these unique developmental needs. By investing in educator preparation, strengthening clinical experiences, and improving workforce data, this legislation acknowledges that the middle grades are not simply a bridge between elementary and high school, but a critical developmental period where expert teaching can alter the trajectory of a young person's academic achievement, well-being, and future opportunities.

— Dr. Chandra Diaz, AMLE Board of Trustees Chair

Association for Independent Liberal Arts College for Teacher Education (AILACTE)

"The Association for Independent Liberal Arts College for Teacher Education (AILACTE) strongly supports the proposed Quality Educator Partnership Act to increase federal investment to strengthen the educator workforce. As an advocate for small, private educator preparation program, AILACTE understands the financial pressures, post Covid, that have forced the closure of many of our institutions, which negatively impacts the educator workforce. The Quality Educator Partnership Act would provide sustained federal funding to support teacher recruitment, preparation, and retention."

— Kevin M. Thomas, Ph.D., President, AILACTE

InnovateEDU

"The Quality Educator Partnership Act is a vital step forward in equipping and supporting educators. By modernizing teacher support and fostering cross-sector collaboration, this legislation invests directly in the instructional leaders at the heart of student success."

— Erin Mote, InnovateEDU, CEO

International Society for Transforming Education (ISTE+ASCD)

"The Quality Educator Partnership Act recognizes that investing in students means investing in the people who teach them. Strengthening pathways into the profession and supporting educators throughout their careers are essential to building a stronger, more sustainable education workforce. The International Society for Transforming Education (ISTE) is proud to endorse this legislation and its commitment to ensuring educators are prepared to lead learning now and into the future."

— Richard Culatta, CEO of ISTE.

NACCTEP National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs

"NACCTEP proudly endorses the Quality Educator Partnership Act. Community colleges serve as critical entry points into the educator workforce, particularly for paraeducators, career changers, first-generation college students, and candidates from local communities. Sustained federal investment in strong partnerships among community colleges, universities, school districts, and community organizations will strengthen educator recruitment, preparation, retention, and advancement. QEPA supports the coordinated, accessible pathways our nation needs to address educator shortages and prepare a diverse, well-supported workforce."

— Julie Ferin, M.Ed., NACCTEP Executive Director

National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)

"NAFSCE is proud to endorse the Quality Educator Partnership Act (QEPA). Family engagement is one of the most powerful tools available to support both educators and families in advancing student success, yet most educators enter the profession without the training or resources to do this work effectively. We believe QEPA begins to address this gap by providing resources that can fuel preparation for family engagement and by prioritizing intentional partnerships among preparation programs, families, and communities. We are excited to stand by our long-term partner AACTE and leaders in Congress in this effort to strengthen educator preparation."

- Vito J. Borrello, Executive Director, National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)

National Association for Music Education

"Music education can be life-changing for students, but its impact relies on having well-prepared and supported educators in every community. To ensure that students everywhere have access to the many benefits of high-quality music education, we must support their teachers throughout their careers—from rigorous preparation and clinical experience to mentorship and professional growth. NAFME proudly supports the Quality Educator Partnership Act (QEPA), which recognizes the deep need for continued investment and aims to strengthen our pipeline of highly qualified educators. We are grateful to Senator Jack Reed and Representative Alma Adams for recognizing the essential role of educators and advancing policies that strengthen their career pathways and ultimately benefit students across the country."

- NAFME President Cecil Adderley.

National Association for School-University Partnerships (NASUP)

"The Quality Educator Partnership Act connects to NASUP's mission to create and sustain collaborative school-university partnerships that foster reciprocal professional learning and prepare future educators through clinical practice. By investing in teacher residencies, Grow Your Own programs, and critical candidate stipends through the National Educator Service Corps, this bill removes systemic barriers to the profession and equips educators to thrive."

- President Josh Douds, National Association for School-University Partnerships (NASUP)

National Association of Elementary School Principals

"NAESP is proud to endorse the Quality Educator Partnership Act to help address persistent educator workforce shortages by making significant new federal investments in our teachers and principals. In addition to the creation of an innovative new National Education Service Corps to recruit qualified candidates to high-need schools, we applaud the bill's provisions that support principals' preparation and professional learning. We appreciate Senator Reed's and Representative Adams' leadership in helping to sustain and improve our school workforce."

- Stephanie Morris, Executive Director, National Association of Elementary School Principals

National Center for Learning Disabilities

"Students with disabilities must have access to high-quality educators. NCLD commends Senator Reed and Representative Adams for their leadership. These investments, improved data and accountability, and the

establishment of a more robust federal infrastructure are critical to addressing the chronic educator shortages that impact students with learning disabilities throughout our nation.”

— Dr. Jacqueline Rodriguez, CEO of the National Center for Learning Disabilities.

National Center for Teacher Residencies (NCTR)

“The National Center for Teacher Residencies is proud to endorse the Quality Educator Preparation Act. Title II provides the targeted investment and strategy needed to scale proven, high-quality models—including teacher residencies and registered teacher apprenticeships—ensuring we recruit, prepare, and retain highly effective educators who reflect and understand the communities they serve.”

— Kathlene Holmes Campbell, PhD., CEO of the National Center for Teacher Residencies (NCTR)

TECSCU, Teacher Education Council for State Colleges and Universities

“The Teacher Education Council of State Colleges and Universities (TECSCU) proudly supports the Quality Educator Partnership Act because strengthening the educator pipeline is essential to the future of our schools and communities. Preparing high-quality educators requires strong partnerships, meaningful clinical preparation, and sustained support for future teachers throughout their development. This legislation recognizes the vital role that educator preparation programs play in advancing the teaching profession and in ensuring that every student has access to well-prepared, effective educators.”

— Kimberly McAlister, Executive Director

Teach Plus

“To build a system where every student can thrive, we must invest directly in the professionals who make learning possible. The Quality Educator Partnership Act addresses the need to support the educator workforce and does so by implementing research-driven practices and enabling the conditions for a proactive redesign of the teaching profession. We applaud the efforts of Senator Reed and Representative Adams in their commitment to educators and students across the country.”

— Kira Orange Jones, CEO of Teach Plus.