

Good Morning, I want to thank our panel of witnesses for being here today, and I look forward to learning from your valuable input regarding federal K-12 education programs funded through this Subcommittee.

As we look at today's economic challenges in a global context, education is becoming more important to sustain our competitive national edge and maintain our quality of life. Education, they say, is the great equalizer. Globalization and technical advancement has required us to educate our young people more effectively and efficiently. In order to prepare our kids for success as adults, a strong elementary and secondary education is essential.

For my family, education is a family tradition. My mom was a teacher. My sister is a principal. And my daughter just started her career as a teacher too. I'm so proud of all of them, because teachers really do touch the future.

As Appropriators, we've got to find ways to spend less so federal deficits don't rob the next generation of their future. We've got to learn to say no, and that means setting priorities. Education is one of my highest priorities.

As I said to Sec. Duncan last week, I'm proud to say that last year, even under very difficult budget circumstances, we were able to increase IDEA Grants to States by \$100 million – it isn't as

much as the \$1.2 billion increase I had proposed in the bill I introduced last Fall, but I know that every penny makes a difference to struggling local school districts.

We also managed to increase title I grants to states by \$60 million. Although the overall funding level at the Department of Education actually represented a cut from the prior year, we made the tough decisions to prioritize these core, large formula programs that benefit almost every district in the country.

The federal government should not try to micromanage education. What works in down town New York City isn't going to cut it in Two Dot, Montana. It's the job of the federal government to support local school districts so that they can deliver the best education to the children in their community.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts about how best this subcommittee can appropriate dollars so that students across America can grow and succeed.