Dear President Weaster,

WASHINGTON, DC 20036-3260
1201 16th Street, NW
National Education Association
President
Dear President Weaster:

Thank you for your letter regarding my request for Excellence for All Children (TEACH) Act as included in the procedures in our education system and revised our teachers for their professionalism, ability and readiness.

I am concerned that as a nation, we don’t show teachers the respect they deserve. It’s time to treat teachers

Education Act

the Miller-McCoy Bill through the discussion green for the realization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Thank you for your letter regarding my request for Excellence for All Children (TEACH) Act as included in

September 12, 2007

Minority Whip
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100
188 ARMSTRONG HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
US. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

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of the concerns that you raised.

Education Act. I appreciate your taking the time to testify and I assure you that we will carefully review all
how we can improve our core programs: introduction of a merit pay system by increasing the number of teachers
chose the annual step of development and requesting a discussion draft was to get candid feedback about
As you mentioned, the Milliken-McCoyon Joint Discussion Draft is just that—a discussion draft. The reason
the MEA and Representative Prendergast.

Finally, I appreciate your mention of all the conversations between our offices about the discussion draft
pay increase that I referred to the Milliken-McCoyon package now that I have
NMAR member of Congress to consider the TEACH Act. As you know, the TEACH Act contains performance
was held on August 1, 2007 to local NEA affiliates, a document asking affiliates to urge their
I would also like to note that despite the NEA’s current opposition to the performance pay language, the
needed additional benefits to help retain teachers. These initiatives are all long overdue and existing
provide premium pay for teachers in hard-to-staff schools create career ladders for teachers, and offer
proposed and actually passed with your support and other of your proposals in the TEACH Act. I offer a few
provision (called “Teach ER”) in the TEACH Act (for purposes of
You are also aware that the NEA expressed general support for the TEACH Act in addition to the statement

2005 and those changes were included in the version of the TEACH Act that was introduced in both
received the initial reaction to the NEA’s suggestion for strengthening the collective bargaining
made it easy for me to attend your collective bargaining division and receive your input. I
in the version of the TEACH Act that was reviewed with the NEA in May of 2005, prior to introduction. The
by you and others that your collective bargaining division had received our draft TEACH Act
You are right that the NEA expressed concerns about the collective bargaining in a draft of the

Dear colleagues,

The Milliken-McCoyon Joint Discussion Draft addresses my concerns in this area by deleting the merit pay

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