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2011 – 2012

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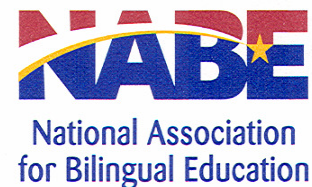
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October 9, 2011

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Dear Senators:

The National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) is extremely grateful and pleased with the actions of President Barack Obama to submit urgency legislation, the American Jobs Act, to get the economy moving forward and to create much needed jobs across our nation. We urge the US Senate and Congress to come together on behalf of the American people to pass this legislation immediately. Our organization (NABE) represents many of the teachers who are working with children and families of high needs and often times neglected by the system. Because many of our teachers are new hires, they are most likely the ones to be released by their school districts due to budget cuts. These teachers need to be in the classroom working with students and parents.

We firmly believe that the American Jobs Act will put our teachers back to work. It is estimated by the CBO that up to 280,000 teachers will be put back to work. In addition, the bill will repair and reconstruct over 35,000 schools, with projects chosen by need and impact, not earmarks and politics. The American Jobs Act also expands job opportunities for hundreds of thousands of low-income youth and adults through a new Pathways Back to Work Fund that supports summer and year round jobs for youth; innovative new job training programs to connect low-income to jobs quickly; and successful programs to encourage employers to bring on disadvantaged workers.

The National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) is a national organization based in Silver Springs, MD. The organization is represented by 22 state affiliates of over 3,000 Bilingual Education teachers and administrators. For the past 41 years, NABE has been committed to excellence in bilingualism and biliteracy education for all students through enriched educational programs, professional and leadership development for teachers, administrators, professors, policy makers and parents. Our mission is to advocate and cultivate a multilingual society promoting policy, pedagogy and research that validates and respects cultural and linguistic diversity that ensures an equitable educational opportunity for all students. NABE is committed to promoting programs and agendas that prepare our nation's students to be fluently bilingual, technologically creative, globally competitive and well-rounded world citizens. Over the past four decades, NABE has provided more than 50 thousand hours of professional development and leadership training in Bilingual Education; 150 Title VII Fellowships, 400 students and teacher scholarships, and numerous hours of Parent education and Special Interest Group (SIG) training.

The NABE Executive Board once again commends your leadership and vision in acknowledging the importance of passing the American Jobs Act to bring back our most gifted and talented teachers back into the classrooms to work with our students where they belong.

Best Regards,

RB

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