



**National Office**

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December 18, 2009

The Honorable Jack Reed  
United States Senate  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) commends you for introducing the Teacher and Principal Improvement Act, an important contribution toward ensuring a high quality education for all children. We applaud your goal of building capacity for growing effective teachers and principals through redefining professional development and fostering a culture of collaboration focused on student learning and achievement. The National Board is particularly pleased to see an emphasis placed on research-based teaching and leadership practices, including the use of teacher portfolios.

The National Board supports the bill's focus on sustained, job-embedded professional development and collective responsibility for improving student learning. Effective professional development is important for all teachers, not just beginning teachers, as well as principals and other instructional staff. The recognition that all staff can benefit from this new definition of professional development is important to whole school reform, particularly in our nation's low-performing schools.

In addition, we laud the strong support for increased teacher leadership opportunities, including the recognition of the significant contributions of these teacher leaders through financial compensation. This policy provides an opportunity for teachers to formally expand their roles beyond the classroom and share their expertise with their peers. It benefits both students and teachers, promoting a culture of collaboration and learning for all.

Thank you for your strong support of teachers and principals and your outstanding leadership. We look forward to continuing to work with you on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aguerrebere".

Joseph A. Aguerrebere, Ed.D.  
President and CEO