

August 1, 2017

Mr. Joe Conaty
Co-Chair, Agency Reform Task Force
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Mr. Conaty:

Thank you for reaching out to education stakeholders for constructive feedback regarding strategies to comply with the President's Executive Order 13781, the Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch.

We at the National Network of State Teachers of the Year (NNSTOY) appreciate the opportunities we have had to share the views of the country's outstanding educators with policymakers and program officers at the U.S. Department of Education. We would like to continue this work together so that education policy can continue to improve and all students have access to great teaching and great schools.

We know that one of the smartest ways we can improve education is for federal and state governments to **leverage the power of teacher leadership**. Whereas no one individual can improve a school or system, a supported team of teacher leaders can help develop a collective responsibility for the learning of each child, one where educators and parents are able to support learning. It will take strong teacher leadership to transform the teaching profession, recruiting and keeping the best teachers, and providing opportunities for all educators to grow and lead.

Specifically, we support the U.S. Department of Education's efforts to strengthen teacher leadership through the following.

- The Teach to Lead Initiative
- The School Ambassador Fellowships, particularly those that bring in exceptional classroom teachers
- Regular outreach to teachers through Teas with Teachers, calls with senior staff, engagement in panels and open discussion forums
- Maintaining an open-door policy and a Teacher Liaison at the U.S. Department of Education who engages with teachers and teacher leadership organizations regularly

We understand that the President seeks to reduce waste in government, and we would like you to know that the U.S. Department of Education's efforts to reach out to teachers and promote teacher leadership are not wasted efforts—far from it. They are critical to strengthening our profession and ensuring that all students can succeed.

Best regards,



Katherine Bassett
President and CEO
National Network of State Teachers of the Year