

December 20, 2012

Member  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515



*Working with and  
Through our State  
Associations, NSBA  
Advocates for Equity  
and Excellence in  
Public Education  
through School  
Board Leadership*

**Re: H.R. 6684, the Spending Reduction Act of 2012**

Dear Representative:

The National School Boards Association (NSBA), representing more than 95,000 local school board members governing over 13,500 local school districts, urges you to oppose *the Spending Reduction Act of 2012* (H.R. 6684), as this bill and other similar measures would significantly undermine key federal investments in education.

Along with the Fiscal Year 2013 budget resolution, H.R. 6684 would impose record budget cuts to elementary and secondary education programs, which would be well beyond the reductions legislated in the Budget Control Act. From deep cuts to Title I grants for disadvantaged students and the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act to mandatory reductions that would eliminate automatic eligibility of 280,000 low-income students for free school lunches, these measures would be a regression to the progress our school districts have made in student achievement.

As you negotiate options to avert the “fiscal cliff,” please know that education programs have already been reduced. Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations cut elementary and secondary education funding by more than \$835 million. The ability to absorb additional budget cuts and provide an enhanced curriculum for all students is extremely limited for many school districts. NSBA has learned from our membership that these proposed budget cuts would result in increased class sizes, less access to programs for children with special needs, fewer resources for core reforms that are underway, forgoing summer school and after-school programming, fewer resources for professional development, four-day school weeks, and teacher and staff lay-offs.

Our children and the school district progress made in student achievement should not be impeded because of a disinvestment in education. If America is to remain a world leader and grow its economy, the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform stated it best: “... we must invest in education, infrastructure, and high-value research and development to help our economy grow, keep us globally competitive, and make it easier for businesses to create jobs.”

NSBA urges you forge a bipartisan solution that puts our children first and protects their future, as well as the future of our country. The federal investments in education yield returns that result in greater productivity, global competitiveness, higher revenues, and increased employment, to name a few. America cannot afford a decline in student achievement and school performance and needs sustained resources to build upon the success and effective reforms that are underway.

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#### **Office of Advocacy**

- *C. Ed Massey  
President*
- *Thomas J. Gentzel  
Executive Director*
- *Michael A. Resnick  
Associate  
Executive Director*

Additionally, we want you to know that the National School Boards Action Center will be including this vote on its scorecard. Please contact Deborah Rigsby, director, federal relations, at (703) 838-6208, or [drigsby@nsba.org](mailto:drigsby@nsba.org), if additional information is needed. NSBA looks forward to working with you and greatly appreciates your leadership on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Resnick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael A. Resnick  
Associate Executive Director