



Montebello Teachers Association/California Teachers Association/National Education Association • 918 W Whittier Blvd Montebello 90640 • (323) 722-5005 • montebelloteachers.org

Don't Let Congress Punish Our Students, Teachers, & Schools AGAIN

Vote No on the Miller/Pelosi NCLB Reauthorization Amendments

California educators have supported the Elementary and Secondary Education Act since its inception in 1965 when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed it as part of the War on Poverty. CTA supports improving student achievement, closing achievement gaps and accountability, but when the law was reauthorized in 2002 and was named the No Child Left Behind Act by President Bush, it became a system of sanctions rather than assistance to public schools, students and teachers.

NCLB is again now up for reauthorization. And the proposal by **California Congressman George Miller** and **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi** does nothing to improve the law. California teachers are calling on **Congress to vote NO on the Miller/Pelosi NCLB reauthorization plan.**

The No Child Left Behind Act is Not Working. It is Hurting our Students, Teachers and Schools. The NCLB reauthorization proposal by Representative George Miller and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi does nothing to improve the current law and actually makes it worse. The Miller/Pelosi reauthorization bill continues to measure student and school success based on standardized test scores and fails to include multiple measures like attendance rates, graduation rates, a rigorous curriculum, and the number of students participating in honors or advanced placement courses. The Miller/Pelosi reauthorization bill creates four new levels of sanctions for schools that are struggling. It punishes lower-performing schools rather than giving students and teachers the assistance and proven tools they need to improve student learning.

The Miller/Pelosi NCLB reauthorization bill will make it harder to attract and retain quality teachers in California classrooms. It creates a new federal mandate to pay and evaluate teachers based on student test scores. Test scores don't fairly measure student achievement and cannot accurately evaluate and pay teachers. California needs 100,000 new teachers in the next 10 years. This proposal will make it

harder to get the quality teachers we so desperately need in our classrooms. Paying teachers based on student test scores will result in more teaching to the test and will end up driving teachers away from lower-performing schools – the very schools that need help the most. Research shows that merit pay schemes tied to student test scores have not improved student achievement and have been abandoned in many states where they were tried, because they were not working.

We can't let the past repeat itself. This law is too important for the future of our public schools.

Call Congress NOW!

- **Call your Member of Congress NOW on the CTA Take-Action Hotline: 1-888-268-4334.**
- **Contact Speaker Pelosi, Member Miller, and your Congress Member www.house.gov/writerep.**
- **Goto www.montebelloteachers.org for more information.**
- **Goto <http://capwiz.com/nea/issues/alert> to alert your Congress Member.**

Grant Opportunities Are Available

Student Achievement Grants and the Learning & Leadership Grants -- **Applications are due by October 15, 2007** for these two programs: **Student Achievement Grants** provide \$5,000 to improve the academic achievement of students by engaging in critical thinking and problem solving that deepens knowledge of standards-based subject matter.

Learning & Leadership Grants provide opportunities for teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff to engage in professional development programs and then lead their colleagues in professional growth. The grant amount is \$2,000 for individuals and \$5,000 for groups engaged in collegial study. Recipients will be notified by March 15, 2008. Grants fund activities for 12 months from the award date. In collaboration with NEA, the NEA Foundation will make approximately 50 awards of \$1,000 each to public schools serving economically disadvantaged students to purchase books for school libraries. The 2008 **NEA's Books Across America Library Books Awards** are made possible in part with support from individuals who donated to NEA's Books Across America fund. Only awards recipients will be notified in writing. **Applications are due** by November 12, 2007 for these Awards. A list of award recipients will be posted on the NEA Foundation's Web site (www.neafoundation.org) by March 3, 2008. Created by the members of the National Education Association in 1969, the NEA Foundation offers programs and grants that support educators' efforts to close the achievement gaps and increase student achievement. For information about grant guidelines and applications visit www.neafoundation.org, or call 202.822.7840.

CTA 2008 Statewide Winter Conferences

January 18-20

Rural Issues Conference
Orleans - Las Vegas
4500 West Tropicana Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89103

Feb. 29 - March 2

Urban Issues Conference
Marriott Hotel, Santa Clara
2700 Mission College Blvd.
Santa Clara, CA 95054

March 7-9

Good Teaching Conference
The Hyatt Regency, Anaheim
11999 Harbor Blvd.
Garden Grove, CA 92840

March 28-30

Equity & Human Rights Conference
Marriott Hotel, Irvine
18000 Von Karman Avenue
Irvine, CA 92612

**Register online now at:
www.cta.org/conferences**

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