



New Jersey ALLIANCE of Catholic School Families

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May 14, 2005

Dear Principals and ALLIANCE Coordinators:

It is imperative that all members of Congress know how important the following programs under No Child Left Behind are to our Catholic schools and our students: Title II, Part D; Title IV, Part A; and Title V, Part A (see attached Alert outlining the particulars of each title). Many of you were kind enough to complete the CAPE Surveys recently and to submit these results to CAPE with copies to me to support our case to the New Jersey Congressional delegation. I have forwarded these responses to legislators on your behalf. In addition, we recently met with Congressmen Rothman and Frelinghuysen with respect to the importance of these programs and are in the process of arranging meetings with Congressmen Andrews and Holt. We need to ensure that every member of Congress (including Senators Lautenberg and Corzine) understand our position and know what is at stake for our students if these programs are either cut or eliminated.

To make things a little easier for you, CAPE has designed a Legislative Action Center which enables us to send E-mails directly to the appropriate members of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation. At the same time, this gives me the opportunity to see just how many of you have contacted your legislators to plea our case. Unfortunately, as of May 10, only 97 responses have been received from New Jersey. Since we have over 400 Catholic schools in New Jersey, this is not even one response from each school. As George Corwell from the New Jersey Catholic Conference has said to the ALLIANCE Directors, how can Kentucky be leading the states with 173 responses since only horses populate Kentucky?

You can create your own message or use the boiler plate language which CAPE has created. It is much more effective if you create your own message, using your own words, with your own passion, about how important the continuation of these programs is for the good of your students. In addition, it is sometimes very effective if we involve our students in this process. It could be an invaluable civic or computer lesson, particularly for our middle and high school students. It could be a message as simple as "Please save the funding for Titles IID, IV and V in No Child Left Behind. These are very important programs for the students who attend our Catholic schools." They could then add any additional comments they so desired to personalize their email.

Please use all methods at your disposal to have our faculty, staff, and parent constituency respond in a unified fashion to this request. It is easy to do using the following directions:

1. Go to CAPE's Legislative Action Center – <http://capwiz.com/cape/home>
2. Enter your zip code and click go.
3. Click to send E-mail to the particular members.
4. Fill out the E-mail form and, below that, your information, and send it off.

Remember that this funding will not affect the 2005-2006 school year, but the Federal Budget now being debated is for the 2006-2007 school year. Please help me help you so that funding for these programs is not severely cut or eliminated entirely. Thank you for your ongoing help and support.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Procaccini, ALLIANCE Director

