January 11, 2022

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for Strength in Diversity Act (H.R. 729)

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We write in support of the Strength in Diversity Act of 2021 (H.R. 729) and ask that it be brought to a floor vote expeditiously. A very similar version of this bill passed the House of Representatives on a bipartisan basis in the 116th Congress and we urge both parties to support it again now.

Our organizations represent the interests of underserved students throughout the United States. We have seen how the diversity of this nation is our strength - one that our students should benefit from first-hand. The Strength in Diversity Act is a voluntary grant program that would support states and school districts that are seeking to better prepare their students for the 21st century workforce - one in which they are almost certain to be working with people who are different from them in one way or another.

The research is clear - all students attending diverse schools reap social and academic benefits. A synthesis of four decades of research highlights these benefits, including higher achievement in math, science, language, and reading; higher educational attainment; more advanced social and historical thinking; and increased civic participation. These benefits to individual students also benefit society.

Passage of the Strength in Diversity Act is particularly important as we are trying to emerge from a pandemic that has disproportionately negatively affected students of color and low-income students. Providing diverse school environments is one of the few steps that educators and policymakers can take that has a demonstrated record of success.

Thank you for your time and for your work to ensure that all students have access to inclusive learning environments. We look forward to the passage of the Strength and Diversity Act, as it is an important step to support our children’s and our nation’s collective success.

Sincerely,
All4Ed
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Atheists
American Civil Liberties Union
American Federation of Teachers
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Capitol Region Education Council
Center for American Progress
Center for Educational Equity; Teachers College; Columbia University
Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights
Children’s Defense Fund
Committee for Children
Communities in Schools
Council of Administrators of Special Education
D15 Parents for Middle School Equity
Education Law Center
EduColor
ERASE Racism
Girls Inc.
IntegrateNYC
Integrated Schools
Intercultural Development Research Association
Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Magnet Schools of America
METCO, Inc.
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector
National Center for Youth Law
National Coalition on School Diversity
National Education Association
National Indian Education Association
National Urban League
New York Appleseed
North Carolina Justice Center
PDK International
Poverty and Race Research Action Council
Public Advocacy for Kids
School Diversity Notebook
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Southern Education Foundation
South Side Early Learning
Teach Plus
The Advocacy Institute
The Arc of the United States
The Civil Rights Project at UCLA
The Education Trust
TNTP
TransFamily Support Services
UnidosUS
UnifiED
Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corp

Submitted with the support of the following individuals (organization names listed for identification purposes only):

Dr. Maria Armstrong
Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents

Jennifer Ayscue
North Carolina State University

Derek W. Black
University of South Carolina

Elise Boddie
The Inclusion Project at Rutgers

Cyrus E. Driver
Partnership for Future Learning

Susan E. Eaton
The Heller School for Social Policy at Brandeis University

Katherine Ericson
LEARN Regional Educational Service Center

Eric Frankenberg
Center for Education and Civil Rights

Matt Gonzales
Integration and Innovation Initiative (i3) at NYU Metro Center

Damon Johnson
Bellxcel

Richard D. Kahlenberg and Halley Potter, Senior Fellows
The Century Foundation

Jeffrey Kitching, Ed. D.
EdAdvance

Jim Kohlmoos
EDGE Consulting Partners
Isabel Lopez  
Nestquest Houston Inc.

Stephen Menendian  
Othering & Belonging Institute, The University of California, Berkeley

Roslyn Mickelson  
University Of North Carolina at Charlotte

Myron Orfield  
Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity

Sean F. Reardon  
Stanford University

Elizabeth Horton Sheff  
Sheff Movement Coalition

Genevieve Siegel-Hawley  
Virginia Commonwealth University

Ivory Toldson  
NAACP

Linda Tropp  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Lorena Tule-Romain  
ImmSchools

Amy Stuart Wells  
Reimagining Education Summer Institute Teachers College, Columbia University

cc:  
The Honorable Robert C. “Bobby” Scott, Chairman, House Education and Labor Committee  
The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Ranking Member, House Education and Labor Committee