

**FROM THE DESK OF CONGRESSMAN MIKE HONDA PROUDLY REPRESENTING
CALIFORNIA'S 17th DISTRICT**

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**HONDA WORKS TO ENSURE EACH AND EVERY CHILD
RECEIVES AN EQUITABLE EDUCATION**

*Honda Introduces Bill to Adequately Fund the Education Needs
of All Children*

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Mike Honda (D-Silicon Valley) introduced the ***Equity and Excellence in American Education Act*** to provide schools with the resources needed to provide each and every child with a high-quality education, and to encourage state governments and local school districts to partner with the federal government to adequately fund America's public schools.

“For far too long, we have been viewing our education system through an inaccurate lens: equality. Equality uses a static, one-size-fits-all approach instead of focusing on the unique needs of each and every student. It is high time our education system works for ALL children in the United States,” said Congressman Honda. **“As an educator of over 30 years, I have seen firsthand the need to address this unique problem: our public education system must work better for all students, and that starts with ensuring teachers and administrators have the student information and resources they need to provide an equitable education to each and every child.”**

In the 111th Congress, Congressman Honda established an Equity and Excellence Commission through his seat on the powerful Appropriations Committee. As a result of his success, the commission was established by the U.S. Secretary of the Department of Education to examine and propose solutions to the inequalities in the public education system. The commission, which included the nation's leading authorities on education issues, produced the Department of Education's Equity and Excellence Commission Report, [For Each and Every Child](#).

In 1972, President Nixon's Education Commission found many of the same funding issues at play in the educational system that we see today, and came to similar conclusions to the Education Equity and Excellence Commission. Both found that we need to fund an educational system that prepares younger generations for the innovative jobs of the future, creates a more robust workforce, and ensures that America stays at the forefront of the global economy.

The full text of Congressman Honda's bill is available [here](#).

Last night, Congressman Honda spoke on the House floor on the need for an equitable education for each and every child. Video of his remarks can be found [here](#).

This morning, an opinion piece coauthored by Congressman Honda and Randy Weingarten, President of the American Federation of Teachers appeared in [The Hill](#).

Congressman Honda's bill enjoys broad support and is endorsed by the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association, First Focus Campaign for Children, Educators Rising, and The Congressional Progressive Caucus.

"Today, one in two public school students in this country is poor. Yet we are the only nation in the world that gives kids that need more the least. In fact, at least 30 states fund education at a lower level than they did during the Great Recession. Rep. Honda's important legislation aims to begin the process of righting this wrong by helping to level the playing field and create an 'equitable and excellent education system' for every child." – **Randy Weingarten, President, American Federation of Teachers**

"All students, regardless of their ZIP code, deserve access to a quality public education. The Equity and Excellence in American Education Act, sponsored by Rep. Michael Honda (D-CA), goes a long way toward achieving the goal of equitable school funding. This legislation will help students, especially those most in need such as students living in poverty, students with disabilities, English-Language Learners, or members of a group with a demonstrated achievement gap. It will improve student achievement and level the playing field in order to set every student in America toward a great and bright future." - **Lily Eskelsen García, President, National Education Association**

"Educators Rising believes that all children in our nation deserve highly skilled, well prepared teachers. They also deserve a fair, equitable playing field so that no matter their demographic of zip code, a public education can provide a ladder to their dreams. The Equity in Education Funding bill would provide an important step towards realizing that American dream." - **Dan Brown, National Board Certified Teacher (NCBT) and Co-Director, Educators Rising**

"There is one core belief shared by Americans that transcends both political affiliation and ideological world view: the circumstances of one's birth shouldn't dictate the limits of what he or she can be. There is no better way to make this shared belief reality than ensuring every child in every state can walk into their local public school and receive a high quality, academically rich and rigorous education. For too many American children, however, that opportunity simply

doesn't currently exist. That is why my bipartisan organization heartily supports the *Equity and Excellence in American Education Act* being proposed by Congressman Honda. This crucial legislation, which builds on the recommendations of the Department of Education's Equity and Excellence Commission, takes the type of evidence-based and best practices approach to investing in public education needed to ensure every child in America receives a meaningful opportunity to learn, and develop the skills required to attend college, be economically competitive and participate actively in our democracy." – **Ralph Martire, Executive Director, Center for Tax and Budget Accountability**

"Congressman Honda shows continued leadership on behalf of America's most vulnerable students. Through this legislation—which builds on the school finance recommendations set forth in the Each and Every Child report issued by the Equity and Excellence Commission - Congressman Honda is taking an evidence-based approach to ensuring each and every child in America receives the type of rigorous education he or she needs to make it in the modern world, irrespective of that child's race, ethnicity, or income level." – **Christopher Edley, Jr., Chair of the Partners for Each and Every Child Project and Co-President of the Opportunity Institute**

"There is no greater avenue of upward mobility in our society than a quality education. A child's ability to achieve should never be hampered by school funding levels, which is why *The Equity and Excellence in American Education Act* is so important. By allowing the federal government to step up when local funds fall short, we're ensuring every child has an equal chance to reach their full potential and investing in the future prosperity of our nation." – **Rep. Raúl Grijalva (AZ-03)**

Congressman Honda's bill is cosponsored by Reps. Chu, Delaney, Edwards, Ellison, Fattah, Fudge, Grijalva, Hinojosa, McDermott, McNerney, Lee and Takano.