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April 14, 2015

The Honorable Rick Scott
Plaza Level 05, The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

IN RE: CS/HB 7069 Concerning Education Assessment and Accountability
Issues

Dear Governor Scott:

Yesterday, you received and are now called upon to act on legislation that attempts to appropriately measure a student's progress and to appropriately assign levels of accountability for the education provided.

On behalf of the Florida Education Association, I write to urge that you sign CS/HB 7069 but want to express some concerns about what is left undone in this bill.

In February, you launched the conversation about testing by recognizing Florida had gone too far in the number, frequency and purpose of testing. Your Executive Order suspended two state tests and called on the legislature to address a number of areas including progress monitoring requirements, duplicative local final exams, excessive numbers of exams per course, the need for better information to parents and teachers and improved evaluation policies. On each of these issues, the bill makes progress and we think this warrants your approval and signature.

While this progress is important, it is equally important to recognize what still needs to be accomplished if we are to provide every student with the best education.

Quite simply, Florida's statewide, standardized testing program continues to occur far too early in the school year. We should all rededicate ourselves to the idea that a year's learning takes a full year's time. For this reason, we hope you will direct the Department of Education to ensure no rule, policy or contract allows testing until after most of the year has been used for instruction.