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New Essential Education Discoveries (NEED) Act of 2024

U.S. Senators Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and John Cornyn (R-Texas)

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed that schools across the United States were not prepared to quickly adopt and scale new, evidence-based educational approaches and technology. To better equip our schools, we must make continued investments in education research and development (R&D). The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) currently includes four national centers, each of which serves an important purpose in research and data collection to support students, educators, and administrators. *The NEED Act* will create a fifth center, the National Center for Advanced Development in Education (NCADE), dedicated specifically to advance informed-risk, high reward transformational education research.

Strengthening education R&D will enable U.S. schools, educators, and policy makers to quickly make necessary adjustments when future challenges arise. A healthy education R&D ecosystem will cultivate future generations of talent in the STEM field and lead to innovations that strengthen national security and our nation's global competitiveness. Strong education R&D infrastructure has the opportunity to address the needs of diverse learners, especially students from historically marginalized backgrounds and those in underserved and rural communities.

Specifically, the *NEED Act* would:

- Make robust investments to establish, staff, and operate NCADE;
- Require the Advanced Development Commissioner to appoint an advisory panel to guide the development and implementation of NCADE projects; and
- Conduct and disseminate the results of periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of NCADE in achieving its mission of expanding education R&D and improving teaching and learning.

The *NEED Act* would also improve Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) and help states better track students' progress through K-12 and into the workforce by:

- Providing funds to modernize data systems and integrate data across multiple systems and agencies, including education, workforce, nutrition, and other social programs;
- Supporting the linkage of data across states while protecting the privacy of students' education records; and
- Promoting and generating accurate data that will help policymakers understand and address opportunity and achievement gaps.