Dear Republican Colleague:

We are taking this opportunity to urge your support for H.R. 2444, legislation establishing a Department of Education.

As you know, there are scattered through 40 federal departments and agencies, but primarily centered in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, more than 150 federal education programs with a budget in excess of $13 billion. We believe that the current organization of these programs is not as effective, accountable and responsive as it should be.

Within HEW is fragmentation and duplication of responsibility. In addition to the Secretary of HEW, three individuals—the Assistant Secretary for Education, the Commissioner of Education, and the Director of the National Institute of Education—may claim the title "Chief Education Official."

HEW also has a top layer of staff assistant secretaries for Management, Budget, Public Affairs, Policy, Planning and Evaluation. Each of them is involved in reviewing education matters. In addition, each of the major education officials has his or her own staff offices and special assistants. A Department of Education will eliminate much of this duplication, including between 350 and 450 positions.

One example of unnecessary duplication and fragmentation in the current structure is in the regulations area. Routine regulations, which must be published before funds can go to needy school districts and students, take an average of 519 days—nearly a year and a half—to be issued. The shortest time is 222 days and, in at least one case, it took 1,296 days—more than three years. A Department of Education will cut this time approximately in half by eliminating 15 offices from the clearance process.

The current structure encourages the federal role in education to be inconsistent, redundant, and turf-oriented among federal officials—with no one actively in charge at the top. Ask your local school officials if this is not correct!

And finally, we believe that the creation of a Department of Education will not usurp local control. In dealing with a federal education bureaucracy that often misconstrues congressional intent, in addition to imposing overwhelming paperwork requirements on local school districts, a Cabinet-level Secretary of
Education would undoubtedly be more sensitive, visible, and accountable. Inappropriate staff initiatives could be quickly curtailed. An organized Department of Education, which will coordinate programs and establish clear lines of responsibility, will enhance local control.

Sincerely,

John B. Anderson, M.C.
John Buchanan, M.C.
Tom Corcoran, M.C.
Robert W. Davis, M.C.
Arlen Erdahl, M.C.
Newt Gingrich, M.C.

Marc L. Marks, M.C.
Joel Pritchard, M.C.
Carl D. Pursell, M.C.
James H. Quillen, M.C.
Don Young, M.C.
Committee on Governmental Affairs
UNITED STATES SENATE

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Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.)
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Sam Nunn (D-Ga.)
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Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.)
Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.)
Harrison Williams (D-N.J.)

7-31-78

*Deceased