



**Representative Marcia L. Fudge
Testimony
House Rules Committee
July 17, 2013 at 3 p.m.**

My amendment to H.R. 5 is a simple, but critical fix that provides greater accountability in education spending. This amendment would prevent the enactment of H.R. 5 until the Secretary of Education can determine if the new fiscal conditions eliminating the Maintenance of Effort requirement will reduce the number of teachers or quality of teaching for students living in poverty.

Every child deserves a quality education regardless of their race, ethnicity, or income. In order to ensure equal education opportunities for all students, we must provide them access to effective teachers. Unfortunately, teachers are often the first on the chopping block during school budget cuts. As schools across the country struggle with sequester level funding, we cannot afford to risk losing more teachers.

However, the provisions within H.R. 5 that remove the Maintenance of Effort requirement from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act do just that. Under current law, Maintenance of Effort requirements ensure that districts receiving Title I funds spend at least 90 percent of what they spent in the previous year from nonfederal sources. Removing this requirement has the potential to drastically reduce education funding by allowing states and districts to use education funds for tax relief or other initiatives unrelated to education, rather than efforts to support students.

My amendment prevents the loss of quality teachers due to the misplaced priorities of some Members of Congress. Children growing up in poverty should have access to the best education possible, and this amendment helps to ensure that goal is achieved.