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July 17, 2013

The Honorable Pete Sessions
Chairman, The Committee on Rules
U.S. House of Representatives
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515


Dear Chairman Sessions,

Due to a recent medical procedure, I am unable to testify today. I would like to take this opportunity, however, to strongly urge the Rules Committee to deem in order the Grimm Amendment. No Child Left Behind (NCLB) included language that explicitly stated that nothing in the law could infringe upon state or local laws regarding teacher and school employees' rights to collective bargain. H.R. 5 removed the NCLB language and the Grimm Amendment would reinsert it.

The Grimm Amendment should be ruled in order because it is identical to language contained in NCLB – *a law that Speaker Boehner himself championed*. Another important point is that nothing in this language would add any additional rights to collective bargain – it merely reinforces that nothing in HR 5 would trump these rights. *Nothing* in this language would change a state's laws in regard to collective bargaining. Finally, this language is limited to Title 2, which deals with teacher preparation and effectiveness.

I urge this Committee to rule the Grimm Amendment in order.

Sincerely,



Michael Grimm
Member of Congress