

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2013

The Honorable Arne Duncan  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:


We write to express concern with a recent announcement you made regarding the relationship between the U.S. Department of Education and the implementation of the President's health care law. During a recent interview with Lois Romano of POLITICO, you stated that the Department of Education will be assisting with the dissemination of information. Additionally, you indicated that there is a team at the Department of Education currently helping with implementation.


While we understand that the effects of the President's health care law will be felt by parents, teachers, and their families, we are unfamiliar with how the Department of Education's involvement in implementation will further the mission of educating our nation's students. To better understand the statutory authority, cost, and scope of the activities the Department of Education has taken, please provide a detailed response to the following questions:

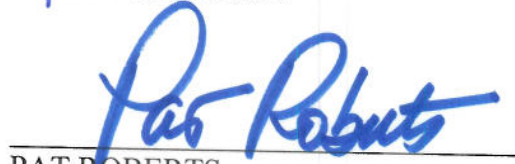
1. How much is the Department of Education spending this fiscal year to further the implementation of the President's health care law, and how much does the Department of Education anticipate spending in each fiscal year from 2014 to 2017? What specific appropriation accounts and programs are being used?
2. If the Department of Education is receiving these funds through the Department of Health and Human Services, what instructions were included with this funding and how many Department of Education employees will be dedicated to this effort?
3. How are the actions by the Department of Education different from those taken by the Department of Health and Human Services? Have you coordinated with the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure your efforts are not duplicative?
4. What authority does the Department of Education have to disseminate information and assist with the implementation of the President's health care law?
5. How do the Department of Education's activities further the education of our nation's students?
6. What specific actions are you asking schools to take without additional federal resources? How does that not constitute an unfunded mandate?


In addition to these questions, we request that you please provide a detailed plan of your current and future involvement with the implementation of the President's health care law by July 30, 2013.

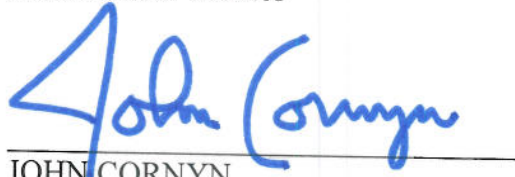
Sincerely,

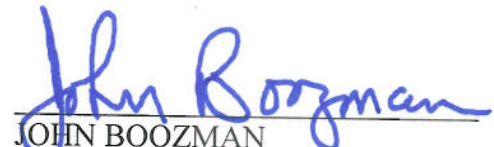
  
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JOHN THUNE  
United States Senator

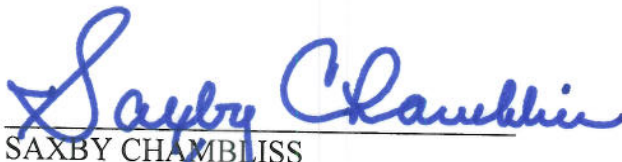
  
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LAMAR ALEXANDER  
United States Senator


  
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PAT ROBERTS  
United States Senator

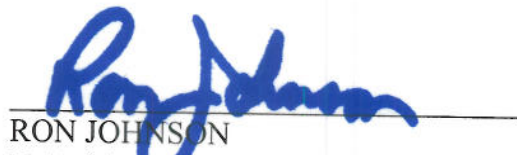
  
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MIKE JOHANN'S  
United States Senator


  
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JOHN CORNYN  
United States Senator


  
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JOHN BOOZMAN  
United States Senator

  
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SAXBY CHAMBLISS  
United States Senator


  
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JOHN BARRASSO  
United States Senator

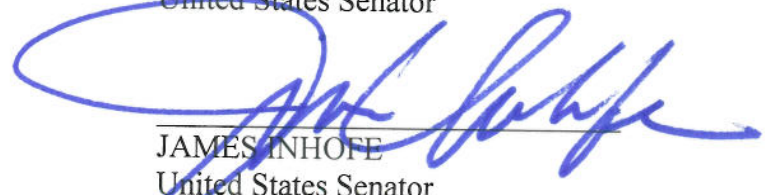
  
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RON JOHNSON  
United States Senator

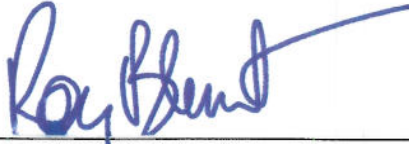
  
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TED CRUZ  
United States Senator

  
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JOHN HOEVEN  
United States Senator

  
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RICHARD BURR  
United States Senator

  
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LISA MURKOWSKI  
United States Senator

  
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JAMES INHOFE  
United States Senator



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ROY BLUNT  
United States Senator



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DEB FISCHER  
United States Senator



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JEFF SESSIONS  
United States Senator



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KELLY AYOTTE  
United States Senator



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JOHNNY ISAKSON  
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Kathleen Tighe, Inspector General