



Dear Superintendent Arntzen,

The Montana American Indian Caucus supports and encourages Montana's pursuit of seeking maximum flexibility and options under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorized as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). We understand this process is specific to the 2020–2021 school year and the state activities that led to your decision to submit a request for testing, accountability, and reporting federal waivers under 20 U.S. Code §7861 and ESEA-ESSA Section 8401.

We believe that the health, safety, and well-being of our communities should be the focus of our efforts for as long as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our lives. While we recognize the importance of accountability to direct federal funds that support our schools, we know that the continuing effects of the pandemic make it critical to grant these waivers for this school year.

We appreciate the outreach to the Montana American Indian Caucus, the recognition of tribal sovereignty, and the right to be full partners in the education of our students.

Sincerely,

Montana American Indian Caucus

Rep. Tyson Running Wolf  
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax  
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy  
Rep. Sharon Peregoy

Sen. Mike Fox  
Sen. Susan Webber  
Sen. Jason Small