

LATE TESTIMONY

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From: Bob Wise [rwise@all4ed.org]
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2008 11:26 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: vierling1@hawaiiantel.net; Carrie Kealoha; Eric Richmond; Kim Hayes
Subject: Committee on Education Hearing Letter- Gov. Bob Wise
Importance: High
Attachments: Governor Wise statement of support_3.28.08.doc

Please find the attached testimony for the Committee on Education hearing being held at 2:00pm on March 28, 2008. This testimony is being submitted in regards to HCR 341 / HR 282.

Bob Wise
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3/28/2008

Bob Wise
Governor of West Virginia, 2001-2005

LATE TESTIMONY

March 28, 2008

Representative Lynn Finnegan
State House of Representatives, District 32
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 328
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

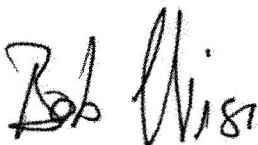
Dear Representative Finnegan:

As the president of a national organization that works to make it possible for every child to graduate prepared for college and the modern workplace, I wish to express my support for your efforts to improve Hawaii's graduation rate calculation.

Graduation rates are a fundamental indicator of whether or not Hawaii's public school system is doing what it is intended to do: enroll, engage, and educate youth to be productive members of society. Schools, districts, and states have a responsibility to accurately measure and report graduation rates for all students, and an obligation to significantly progress towards the goal of having all students graduate from high school prepared for college and work. Unfortunately, unacceptably low graduation rates through the country have been obscured and accepted for far too long due to inaccurate data and misleading calculations and reporting.

The Alliance for Excellent Education advocates for policies that support every student, particularly those at risk of dropping out, and we applaud your efforts to acknowledge the need for more accurate calculations. High-quality data and clear graduation rates are a critical step towards identifying and overcoming the barriers that students face on the path to a successful future. Only by following and supporting students continuously through school can Hawaii enact positive policies to ensure that every child becomes a graduate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Wise". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and "W".

Bob Wise
President