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TEACH FOR AMERICA STATEMENT ON SENATE HELP COMMITTEE HEARING ON INNOVATION FOR STUDENTS

New York, NY (February 3, 2015) — Elisa Villanueva Beard, co-CEO of Teach For America, today released the following statement on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee hearing on innovation for students:

“As the Senate HELP Committee holds a roundtable discussion on Innovation to Better Meet the Needs of Students, we urge Congress to recognize the positive impact that evidence-based grant programs have had in delivering student success and promoting innovation,” said Elisa Villanueva Beard, Teach For America co-CEO. “A key role for the federal government should be to foster innovation to grow local capacity for success. Teach For America has seen firsthand the impact federal competitive grant programs can have, from making a difference in the classroom and improving student achievement through ensuring high-quality teachers, to allowing successful innovations to be replicated and scaled up so that Federal education programs produce concrete, measurable results.”

Teach For America calls for competitive funding streams to foster innovation at the state and local level to be included in the ESEA Reauthorization bill. We believe programs like SEED, which provides competitive grants to national non-profit organizations to recruit, select, and prepare or provide professional enhancement activities for teachers and/or principals from non-traditional preparation and certification routes to serve in traditionally underserved local education agencies; competitive grants to non-profit organizations to implement or scale-up innovative practices that have shown evidence of effectiveness, in order to improve student achievement from early childhood through high school; and programs to support, strengthen, and invest in the recruitment and development of effective school leaders for high-need schools, especially in rural communities where the talent pipelines for school leadership are particularly small, are critical.

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About Teach For America

Teach For America works in partnership with communities to expand educational opportunity for children facing the challenges of poverty. Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding college graduates and professionals to make an initial two-year commitment to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the movement to end educational inequity. Today, 10,600 corps members are teaching in 50 urban and rural regions across the country while more than 37,000 alumni work across sectors to ensure that all children have access to an excellent education. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).