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TEACH FOR AMERICA STATEMENT ABOUT SENATE HELP COMMITTEE HEARING ON SUPPORTING TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS

New York, NY (January 26, 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 supporting teachers and school leaders:

"We are glad to see the Senate HELP Committee dedicate a hearing tomorrow to 'supporting teachers and school leaders.' Any federal education legislation must recognize that high quality teachers are imperative to ensure that all children have the opportunity to learn and succeed, and must enable the supports and provide the resources to attract and retain high-quality teachers in high-need schools.

"Regardless of the path a teacher takes to the classroom, that teacher should be held to the same high standards, which must include student growth and other outcome measures. We were pleased to see that Senator Alexander's bill included 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. Furthermore, innovative models of recruiting, preparing and retaining teachers and school leaders, at the local and state levels, that demonstrate evidence of effectiveness must continue to be incentivized in order to improve student achievement from early childhood through high school. As a large teacher recruitment and preparation entity, we have seen how such programs can create and sustain great schools, especially in rural communities where the talent pipelines for school leadership are particularly small.

"Title II in ESEA must be looked at as a tool to build and maintain a high-quality, sustainable, diverse teacher workforce that will benefit all children. Only when teachers are set up to succeed can their students do the same."

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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](#).