

Remarks on No Forced Transfer Amendment

- Thank you Mr. CHAIRMAN. This amendment is very simple. It clarifies that the comparability language in Title I does not require a local education agency to transfer school personnel to comply with this subsection.
- Let me be clear — I support the goals of the Title I comparability language. Title I schools should be getting at least the same average per-pupil funding as other schools in the same district — before receiving Title I funds.
- My amendment would strengthen the comparability language by clarifying that school districts don't need to force teachers to transfer between schools against their will to meet this requirement.
- Such a practice is bad for teachers, and it's bad for students. Teachers should be teaching at a school because they chose to be there, not because they were transferred there forcefully. They won't be as dedicated, and they even decide to just leave the district. They won't put in the extra hours that are so sorely needed to provide individual attention to students who may be years below grade level. So once again, forced transfers are bad for teacher morale and bad for students.
- There are better ways attract good teachers to title I schools. We can provide them with better resources and support at the school. We can make sure they're surrounded by a team of other dedicated, talented teachers who are committed to the same goals. We can provide them with an exceptional principal, who is both trained and committed to being an instructional leader. We can reward teachers who volunteer to go to high need schools with higher salaries for doing harder work.

- But forced transfers are not the way to go. This is a common sense amendment, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.