



February 12, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg  
Chair  
House Education and the Workforce Committee  
2176 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott  
Ranking Member  
House Education and the Workforce Committee  
2101 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor,  
and Pensions  
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor,  
and Pensions  
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Walberg, Ranking Member Scott, Chair Cassidy, and Ranking Member Sanders,

On behalf of America Forward and the America Forward Coalition, we write to express our deep concern regarding the reported cancellation of 89 contracts at the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) earlier this week.

The America Forward Coalition represents more than 100 non-government social innovation organizations, many of whom focus on education services ranging from early learning to K-12 education to postsecondary education and workforce training. Working in all 50 states and over 15,000 communities nationwide, America Forward Coalition members are committed to data-driven, evidence-informed strategies that improve outcomes for students and our country as a whole.

For more than two decades, IES has served as the central, nonpartisan resource for data, research, and evaluation that supports and strengthens our nation's education system. America Forward Coalition members, as well as their state and local partners around the country, ranging from elementary schools to employers, rely on IES's work to make a difference every day.

These contract cancellations threaten to stall or reverse efforts to improve our nation's education system, and use resources efficiently, at a time when evidence-based improvement could not be more urgent. We understand that the cancelled contracts include many critical resources such as the What Works Clearinghouse, the nation's leading resource to identify evidence-based education strategies; Congressionally-mandated studies, such as on career and technical education under the Perkins Act; research support for such programs as the tremendously impactful Education Innovation and Research tiered evidence grant program; and many more. While we support efforts to improve the impact and quality of federally-funded research and data, the reported mid-project cancellations would stop critical research, data, and evaluations needed to ensure an educated workforce that drives our economy.

We urge you to engage the Trump-Vance Administration to address this matter, and appreciate your attention. Please let us know if we or our partners can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Smolover".

Deborah Smolover  
Executive Director  
America Forward