

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

March 8th, 2017

**Contact:**

Stephen Buckley  
National Council on Teacher Quality  
sbuckley@nctq.org  
202-393-0020 ext 129

**Statement from Kate Walsh, President of the National Council on Teacher Quality, on  
Congressional Action on the Federal Teacher Preparation Regulations**

The Senate is now considering a bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives that overturns the [teacher preparation regulations](#) finalized by the Department of Education this past October.

NCTQ President Kate Walsh released this statement: “It is unfortunate that the House made no attempt to scrutinize these regulations to see where they added value and where they did not. Teacher preparation institutions and programs are not a monolith; these regulations require increased transparency regarding individual program strengths and weaknesses to improve teacher training and, ultimately, to support America’s students and schools.”

The Department of Education spent years developing and finalizing these regulations as a compromise among educators and local, state, and federal officials. Although imperfect, these regulations require states and institutions training teachers to collect and report key information about teacher preparation programs. By overturning these regulations, Congress would tell our nation’s teacher preparation programs that they will not be held accountable for how well they educate aspiring teachers. Nor will applicants be able to discover which programs provide the best preparation for teaching. This measure also robs education leaders of the necessary information to laud exemplary programs and intervene to help struggling programs succeed.

NCTQ’s own [research on teacher preparation programs](#) has found that, unfortunately, too many programs graduate teachers who require substantial assistance before they are truly ready for the classroom. Our [research](#) also has demonstrated that individual teacher preparation programs within the same institution vary significantly, indicating a clear need for transparent data at the program level, as these regulations require. For these reasons, the teacher preparation regulations should be retained.

However, rejecting this bill is not the only opportunity Congress has to strengthen teacher preparation this year. Indeed, Congress has indicated that it intends to reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA) this session. We urge them to move swiftly in doing so. A strong, bi-partisan HEA reauthorization should incorporate the key transparency requirements embedded in the teacher preparation regulations, including reporting key data at the program level and conducting statewide surveys of new teachers and their principals. Our nation’s students and schools deserve nothing less.

###

To schedule an interview with Ms. Walsh, please contact Stephen Buckley on (202) 393-0020 ext. 129.

***About the National Council on Teacher Quality:***

*The National Council on Teacher Quality is a nonpartisan research and policy group, committed to modernizing the teaching profession and based on the belief that all children deserve effective teachers. We recognize that it is not teachers who bear responsibility for their profession's many challenges, but the institutions with the greatest authority and influence over teachers. More information about NCTQ can be found on our website, [www.nctq.org](http://www.nctq.org).*