

**July 15, 2011**

**“Educating Our Children to Succeed in the Global Economy”**

**Testimony submitted to the United States Senate  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

Vanessa Otterlee- Parent:

As a parent I feel too much time and effort and financial resources are put into multiple choice testing. Some of the resources used for testing should be used to provide support to teachers and time for them to plan together.

Extended day programs at our schools benefit the neediest students and provide them with opportunities that they might not otherwise experience. Full day kindergarten programs are available through parent tuition based programs at some of our schools, however the full day kindergarten experience should be available to all students in the district.

School choice options don't appear to do much for students or for schools as some of the best and brightest students are leaving their neighborhood school for reasons that are not related to the academic offerings at the school such as sports and music programs.

The SIG grant and the turnaround efforts at our McKay High School have produced some super student achievement results this year. However I don't feel it is reasonable to think that a school can be fully transformed within 3 years. More time is needed.

I have witnessed firsthand the benefits of providing training to the instructional assistants in the district and having those serving in the Title I schools be “highly qualified” and I believe that this has had considerable benefit for our students.

The benefit of the funding for the district received through ESEA is to provide opportunity for all students-even our most needy.