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Chair:  
House Services  
Committee  
Member:  
Education Committee  
Finance Committee

**COLORADO**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
DENVER  
80203

November 30, 2009

Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan,

I write to express my support of the Colorado Department of Education's proposal to the U.S. Department of Education for a State Longitudinal Data System ("SLDS") grant.

Having served in our state's House of Representatives since 2004, I have had the honor to support numerous bills providing the framework for Colorado's longitudinal data system. Working together with Governor Ritter, legislators have continuously demonstrated a commitment to building the policy base for an effective data system that helps raise student achievement statewide. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and am confident that support will continue into the future.

The Colorado Department of Education has demonstrated the will to be innovative, stretching the realm of what was previously possible. Serving as examples of that innovation, Colorado's SchoolView project and Colorado Growth Model provide invaluable tools for stakeholders and are seen as a model to other states. These programs, coupled with our policy base, make Colorado a great investment.

I strongly support Colorado's proposal for the SLDS grant and believe it will advance our efforts in raising student achievement and closing the achievement gap. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Representative Debbie Benefield  
Colorado House of Representatives