May 17, 2010

Mr. Arne Duncan
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
LBJ Education Building
Room 7W311
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Upon careful review of Illinois' Race to the Top application of January 2010, I am pleased to offer this letter of endorsement of the strategies and reforms reflected in it.

A strong education for all of our citizens is essential to rebuilding our economy for the long term. Ensuring that all students have access to world-class schools is the first step toward securing our future. The reforms in this application are a reflection that we are thinking differently about how to improve our schools and bring about a new level of accountability.

As the Republican nominee for Governor of Illinois, it may well fall to my Administration to execute the terms of the state's application. The reforms outlined make sense across the political spectrum and I support the culture of higher expectations, innovation and accountability that are hallmarks of the application. I hope to bring those same elements across all of Illinois state government.

Once again, I am pleased to offer my support for Illinois' application, due to be re-submitted this June. No matter the outcome, Illinoisans will continue to work together, in a bipartisan manner, to support the reforms outlined and oversee their careful implementation to bring success to our schools.

Sincerely,

Bill Brady
State Senator
Bloomington, IL

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