1201 16th St., N.W. | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Lily Eskelsen García
President

Rebecca S. Pringle
Vice President

Princess R. Moss
Secretary-Treasurer

John C. Stocks
Executive Director

March 21, 2017

United States Senate
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the three million members of the National Education Association and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to ensure that Alexander Acosta, President Trump's nominee for Secretary of Labor, is committed to the U.S. Department of Labor's mission: to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

It is critical for the Secretary of Labor to be committed to fairness and civil rights for all workers. Every day across the country, men and women go to work hoping to do an honest day's work and provide for their families. Their contributions have made the U.S. economy one of the strongest in the world and, over time, created a stable middle class.

A strong labor force is the foundation of a strong middle class. Unfortunately, the worker voice in the workplace has eroded over the past few decades and so has the stability of the middle class. Now more than ever, America needs to invest in policies that shore up and help rebuild the middle class.

The Department of Labor is charged with addressing a range of issues related to those goals, including workplace safety, retirement security, and civil rights. We urge the committee to vet Mr. Acosta thoroughly in these areas, especially with regard to his tenure at the U.S. Department of Justice as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights and his commitment to the U.S. Department of Labor's mission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association