

KYRSTEN SINEMA
ARIZONA

317 HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-4521

3333 E. CAMELBACK RD, SUITE 200
PHOENIX, AZ 85018
(602) 598-7327

20 E. OCHOA ST
TUCSON, AZ 85701
(520) 639-7080

<http://sinema.senate.gov>

United States Senate

COMMITTEES

BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

May 26, 2019

Sylvia Lyles, Director
U.S. Department of Education
Office of Well-Rounded Education Programs
400 Maryland Ave., SW, LBJ
Washington D.C. 20202

Dear Director Lyles:

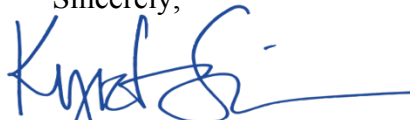
I write regarding the proposal submitted by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), which is partnering with First Things First (FTF) to apply for the Office of Well-Rounded Education Programs' Comprehensive Literacy State Development grant. Funds from the Office of Well-Rounded Education Programs would allow ADE to contract with community-based organizations to implement research-based literacy, support, and interventions programs.

According to FTF's analysis of statewide exams, only 46 percent of Arizona third graders meet a third-grade reading proficiency standard, while only 22 percent of children receive quality early learning curricula. Many students in Arizona need literary support, including those living in poverty, traditionally underserved minority populations (Latino and tribal), English language learners, and children with special needs. ADE and its partners are committed to supporting the healthy development and schooling of Arizona's students.

The Arizona Department of Education and its partners are prepared to effectively implement this grant to improve child literacy in Arizona. A Comprehensive Literacy grant would allow ADE to take a statewide approach on the expansion of existing community collaborations to promote early literacy, including interventions already supported throughout the state. In alignment with the established grant parameters, the intervention would be aimed at disadvantaged communities in Arizona with a 15 percent focus on the birth to five population; 40 percent on grades K-5; and 40 percent on grade 6-12.

In accordance with all existing agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines, I respectfully ask that you give this proposal full and fair consideration as you make this important decision.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator