

My name is Annabel Quintero, I am a Parent Advocate and my work has been situated in Title I Schools in South King County. With the new re-authorization of ESEA, I have been so encouraged with the depth of parent engagement that is systemically possible with the Every Student Succeeds Act.

In fact, all the tools of the Accountability system, is truly trying to provide a transparency mechanism for States, Districts, and Schools, so we can differentiate between schools and ask the hard questions to improve them. I am here today for two reasons. First and foremost to express my deep concern, that the parent engagement provided in the law for our communities to be an integral part of the ESSA development process has not been exercised; and to express my deep concern for the premature State plan deadline of December 2016.

Now, with a new administration, why would we need to submit this in December 2016, when the federal deadline is March 2017? They are going through the same reorganization process as OSPI. But most important, the Dept. of Ed has not released the final regulations yet. And these Regulations could impact aspects of our state plan.

I would like to share our experiences, at the grassroots level where there are high concentrations of Title I Schools, how the development process has taken place. The outreach has been via online only, no prints, only in English, the ESSA Workgroups meetings conducted during the day. For a law that is intended to serve low income, English Learners, Special Needs students, students of color and migrant children, the outreach doesn't mirror the people this law was intended to serve.

Therefore we, a collective of community organizations and coalitions request that the WA State ESSA plan not be submitted until communities can engage in ESSA workgroups and provide input for a law that will be impacting their children. We also request that WA State wait until February 15<sup>th</sup>.

This law intended for a coordinated effort by the State to consult us and integrate our input. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on our two requests, and hope that our voices of our community will be heard, and provide a process that is inclusive.

Thank you,  
Annabel Quintero  
OneAmerica