

REAUTHORIZATION OF CHAPTER I  
TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,  
ARTS AND HUMANITIES

AND  
HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ELEMENTARY,  
SECONDARY AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

REMARKS BY  
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FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN A  
GREAT OUTPOURING OF WORDS AND CONCERN AT ALL  
LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND IN THE PRIVATE  
SECTOR ABOUT THE STATUS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION  
IN THIS COUNTRY, THE CONCERN HAS BEEN  
GENUINE, AND IT REFLECTS A GENERAL SENSE THAT  
OUR SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION EITHER IS NOT  
WHAT IT ONCE WAS, OR IS NOT WHAT WE WOULD  
LIKE IT TO BE,  
BUT IN TERMS OF PUBLIC POLICY CHOICES, IT  
OFTEN SEEMS THAT OUR WORDS TAKE US IN ONE  
DIRECTION WHILE OUR ACTIONS TAKE US IN  
ANOTHER,

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WE ARE CONSTANTLY REMINDED THAT EDUCATION IS  
THE GATEWAY TO OPPORTUNITY IN THIS COUNTRY/  
THAT OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR GREATEST NATURAL  
RESOURCE/ AND THAT EVERY YOUNG PERSON  
DESERVES AN OPPORTUNITY.

BUT THAT'S NOT THE MESSAGE THAT'S REFLECTED  
IN THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION'S BUDGETS AND  
THAT'S NOT THE MESSAGE WE FIND IN GRAMM-  
RUDMAN-HOLLINGS.

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THE BUDGET RESTRAINTS ON THE CHAPTER I  
PROGRAM MIGHT BE PALATABLE IF CHAPTER I HAD  
ACHIEVED MOST OF WHAT IT HAD SET OUT TO DO,  
BUT RESTRAINTS ON THE PROGRAM NEVER ALLOWED  
IT TO REACH ITS FULL POTENTIAL AND THE  
CURRENT RESTRAINTS ARE OCCURRING AT A TIME  
WHEN THE JOB IS FAR FROM COMPLETE - AND ALSO  
AT A TIME WHEN, BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THIS COUNTRY. THIS  
PROGRAM AND OTHERS OF ITS GENRE MAY BE MORE  
NECESSARY THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST 20  
YEARS,

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WSW CHAPTER ONE

CHAPTER I WAS THE FIRST FEDERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM TO PAY FOR PARAPROFESSIONALS, **IT** PROVIDED AN ENORMOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM. IT PROVIDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT. IT EMPHASIZED THE VALUES OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY. THE MAJOR FLAW WITH CHAPTER I IS THAT 40 TO 50 PERCENT OF THE CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM NEVER PARTICIPATED. THE REASON? INADEQUATE FUNDING,

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AT A TIME WHEN SO MANY YOUNG  
CHILDREN ARE GROWING UP IN CONDITIONS OF  
POVERTY IT IS SIMPLY TRAGIC TO FAIL TO FUND  
CHAPTER I AT ANYTHING LESS THAN ITS FULLEST  
POTENTIAL,

IT IS INCREASINGLY EVIDENT JUST HOW CLOSELY  
RELATED THE HEALTH AND VITALITY OF THE  
AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY ARE TO THE HEALTH  
AND VITALITY OF THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH WE  
LIVE AND WORK AND THE NATION AS A WHOLE. THE  
QUALITY OF EDUCATION WE PROVIDE TO ALL OF OUR  
CHILDREN - RICH AND POOR ALIKE - IS CENTRAL  
TO DEVELOPING AND SUSTAINING THIS HEALTH AND  
VITALITY.

WSW CHAPTER ONE

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OR BOTH PATRIOTIC AND SELF-SERVING PURPOSES

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY MUST BE INVOLVED IN

EFFORTS TO REVITALIZE AMERICAN PUBLIC

EDUCATION, THE INTEREST IN THE PUBLIC

SCHOOLS WHICH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS

DEMONSTRATED IN RECENT YEARS WILL HOPEFULLY

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BE SUSTAINED THROUGH LOCAL, STATE AND

NATIONAL EFFORTS, SCHOOL BUSINESS

PARTNERSHIPS ARE FINE AS FAR AS THEY GO,

HOWEVER, BUSINESS LEADERS NEED TO ALSO BECOME

INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS AS

ADVOCATES FOR GREATER PUBLIC SECTOR SUPPORT

FOR PUBLIC

EDUCATION.

WSW CHAPTER ONE

**I AM TOLD THAT THIS HEARING TODAY REPRESENTS**

**AN IMPORTANT WATERSHED IN THE GROWING**

**INVOLVEMENT OF AMERICAN BUSINESS LEADERS IN**

WSW CHAPTER ONE

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UBLIC EDUCATION, THIS HEARING IS., WE ARE

ALSO TOLD/ A PRECEDENT-SETTING EVENT IN THAT SENIOR

OFFICERS OF MAJOR U.S. CORPORATIONS

ARE TESTIFYING TOGETHER NOT TO DISCUSS TAX OR

MERGER BILLS., BUT TO UNDERSCORE THE SIGNIFICANCE

WE ATTACH TO NATIONAL EFFORTS TO EDUCATE ALL OF

OUR NATION'S CHILDREN.

IF

THIS IS SO., THEN IT IS A MAR NOT ONLY OF HOW FAR

WE HAVE COME) BUT HOW FAR WE HAVE YET TO GO.

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WSW CHAPTER ONE

0 THE REAUTHORIZATION UPON WHICH YOU ARE EMBARKED IS AT A  
CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE WE AS A  
NATION ATTACH TO PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO  
DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN. I HOPE YOU WILL BE GENEROUS WITH  
TODAY'S AUTHORIZATIONS) BECAUSE YOU ARE SETTING THE LEVEL OF  
TOMORROW'S PAYOFFS) AND I EXPECT THAT YOU WILL FIND INCREASING  
0 BUSINESS RECOGNITION OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT PROGRAM,