

United Way Worldwide

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Brian A. Gallagher
President and Chief Executive Officer



April 20, 2011

The Honorable Arne Duncan
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

I am writing to ask you to support the inclusion of \$39.3 million for the Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC) program for fiscal year 2011 in the sub-account spending plan required under the full year 2011 Continuing Resolution.

As a key partner in the National Family, School, and Community Engagement Working Group, United Way Worldwide has been working closely with the National PTA to support innovation initiatives that increase community and family engagement in education. Like the National PTA, we recognize that PIRCs play a valuable role in developing partnerships between schools and engaged parents and families. As the sole parent and family engagement program in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), PIRCs provide needed statewide leadership, technical assistance, and capacity-building to State and local educational agencies.

Given the Department's support for family and community partnership in education, I ask that you maintain investments in this vitally important resource. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued leadership in family and community engagement in education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian", written in black ink.