

ACTION ALERT

January 2008

Urge Members of the US Senate to Support the No Child Left Inside Act of 2007

The No Child Left Inside Coalition needs you to step forward now and tell members of the U.S. Senate that you strongly **support environmental education**. The Coalition's legislation, the No Child Left Act (S.1981), would strengthen and expand environmental education, and would reconnect children with nature through outdoor learning experiences. The NCLI Act provides funding for environmental education programs and teacher professional development in states with K-12 environmental literacy plans. Such funding is critically needed to help young people understand their natural world.

The action is now in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, which is considering education funding issues as it works to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind law. Sen. Edward Kennedy, chairman of the committee, plans to produce a No Child Left Behind bill by April. **We want as many cosponsors as possible of the NCLI Act**, which will send a signal to the Senate HELP Committee that support is broad and diverse.

The power of the No Child Left Inside Coalition rests with the members of its affiliated organizations, such as ours. So, please take a few minutes and **call or write your senators** and ask them to cosponsor the NCLI legislation.

Action Needed!

- 1. Call your senators**, and ask them to cosponsor S. 1981, the No Child Left Inside Act.
- 2. Write a letter** on your organization's letterhead to encourage your senators to cosponsor the No Child Left Inside Act. (Sample letter is attached.)
- 3. Send a follow up report** to the NCLI Coalition Grassroots Coordinator (Abby Ybarra, aybarra@cbf.org) so he can track which senators have been contacted.

Go to www.eeNCLB.org to learn more about the No Child Left Inside Act. The website includes a link to allow you to send an email to members of Congress as well as other useful tools, such as guidelines on writing a letter to your local newspaper's editor.

Please get involved now. Together we can promote healthier kids and a healthier world!

SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER TO SENATOR

Date.....

Dear Senator (*enter your Senator here*):

I am writing to encourage you to support the No Child Left Inside Act of 2007 (S. 1981). This critically important bill will help strengthen and expand environmental education in our schools. We must do a better job of giving young people the knowledge they need to understand the enormous environmental challenges we face. And we must do more to get our young people outside to enjoy, explore and learn about their natural world.

This legislation will provide support to train teachers to offer scientifically based lessons in the environment. And it will provide funding for states to develop plans to ensure that students are environmentally literate. Environmental education pays off in many ways. Most importantly, research has shown that students who take part in high-quality environmental lessons are more engaged in school and do better in science and other courses.

The No Child Left Inside Act will allow school districts to advance environmental education – without imposing any new mandates on teachers and administrators. I urge you to support including its provisions in the No Child Left Behind reauthorization bill now being considered in the HELP Committee.

Thank you for your consideration,

“No Child Left Inside Supporter”

HELP COMMITTEE MEMBERS
110th Congress

Democrats by Rank

Edward Kennedy (MA)

Christopher Dodd (CT)

Tom Harkin (IA)

Barbara A. Mikulski (MD)

Jeff Bingaman (NM)

Patty Murray (WA)

Jack Reed (RI)

Hillary Rodham Clinton(NY)

Barack Obama (IL)

Bernard Sanders (I) (VT) (Cosponsor)

Sherrod Brown (OH)

Republicans by Rank

Michael B. Enzi (WY)

Judd Gregg (NH)

Lamar Alexander (TN)

Richard Burr (NC)

Johnny Isakson (GA)

Lisa Murkowski (AK)

Orrin G. Hatch (UT)

Pat Roberts (KS)

Wayne Allard (CO)

Tom Coburn, M.D. (OK)