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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

COMMITTEE:  
**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**  
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE  
RANKING MEMBER  
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE

October 17, 2011

Dear GEAR UP Director:

In recognition of the importance of college readiness and the role GEAR UP programs play in preparing students for post-secondary success, we will be celebrating National GEAR UP Week this fall, October 24 through 28, 2011. We encourage you to join us and other GEAR UP partners in marking the many successes of the GEAR UP program to date and promoting its future possibilities.

We hope that you and your GEAR UP project will be interested in participating in one or more of the following activities:

- Share the video messages from Secretary Duncan and me in your schools.
- Hold an event celebrating your GEAR UP program! Invite local media, elected officials, school administrators, parents, teachers, and students.
- Host a lunchroom celebration at your site for teachers, parents, students, local elected officials, and your partners.
- Send letters to your Representative and Senator. These letters can be from students, parents, teachers, local elected officials, business owners... anyone who loves GEAR UP!
- Create a "Chain of Success" - a paper link chain, with every link representing students served by your site, then take a picture of it with the students to send to your partners, Members of Congress, etc.
- Send an oversized thank you card signed by your students, teachers, parents, and others to your Representative and Senator, thanking them for the federal dollars that make our GEAR UP programs possible.
- Create a GEAR UP Dreams wall by posting butcher paper and getting your students to write their goals on it.

We are also interested in hearing about other exciting ideas that you may have to celebrate and promote GEAR UP during National GEAR UP Week. Please let us know how you plan to celebrate National GEAR UP Week (including pictures!) so that we can include the information in the Congressional Record.

Thanks so much of all that you do to make GEAR UP the successful and vibrant program that it is today. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Liz King in my office at [elizabeth.king@mail.house.gov](mailto:elizabeth.king@mail.house.gov) or (202) 225-4001. I wish you a continued successful school year and National GEAR UP Week celebration!

Very truly yours,

Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress