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October 30, 1998

Mr. Mike Farris, Esquire  
President  
Home School Legal Defense Association  
Post Office Box 3000  
Purcellville, Virginia 20134

Dear Mike:

We won! Thanks to the Home School Legal Defense Association and the thousands of families who home school all across America, the federal test proposed by the Clinton Administration is dead. With the signing of the Omnibus appropriations bill last week, the President gave up his prolonged fight to federalize school curriculum.

Last year, with your help, we won a reprieve from pilot testing and implementation of the President's federal tests, but that was only a stop gap measure. But now the prohibition is complete, and the following is the law of the land:

"SEC.447. PROHIBITION ON FEDERALLY SPONSORED TESTING.

(a) GENERAL PROHIBITION.-Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law.. .no funds provided to the Department of Education or to an applicable program, may be used to pilot test, field test, implement, administer or distribute in any way any federally sponsored national test in reading, mathematics, or any other subject that is not specifically and explicitly provided for in authorizing legislation enacted into law..."

I know you are aware that this victory will keep the responsibility for curriculum and testing of students where it belongs, at the state and local levels. If the President had prevailed it surely would have led to an unwarranted national curriculum because what is tested must be taught. This initiative would have stifled local control of education. It could have led to unfair comparisons of schools and students and it would have been a redundant colossal waste of taxpayer money.

It is important to note that the commitment of Speaker Gingrich and Majority Leader Lott was invaluable in the successful defeat of this ill-conceived proposal. Thank you for standing with me. I look forward to working closely with you on matters of equal importance to America's families in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Goodling".

BILL GOODLING  
Chairman