

# NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

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## **Congressional Vote Will Hurt Homeless Kids, Others**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (the Law Center) condemned the votes in the Senate and House of Representatives to use the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to repeal a U.S. Department of Education rule that clarified states' accountability obligations under the bi-partisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

“It is shameful that Congress voted to overturn protections to ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness have access to education—and a chance at a better future,” said Maria Foscarinis, Founder and Executive Director of the Law Center. “The ESSA Accountability regulation held school districts and child welfare agencies accountable for measuring educational outcomes and meeting the educational needs of students in foster care and those experiencing homelessness. It is now more important than ever for Secretary Betsy DeVos to step up to ensure that the bi-partisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is fully implemented across the country in a manner that allows every student to succeed.”

Thursday, the Senate passed the bill with a vote of [50-49](#). The bill had already passed the House of Representatives on February 7, 2017 and is expected to be signed into law. The Congressional Review Act allows congress to overturn regulations within 60 legislative days after they are issued.

More than 1.36 million students in the United States experience homelessness, a number that has nearly doubled since 2007.

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*The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty ([www.nlchp.org](http://www.nlchp.org)) is the only national organization dedicated solely to using the power of the law to prevent and end homelessness. With the support of a large network of pro bono lawyers, we address the immediate and long-term needs of people who are homeless or at risk through outreach and training, advocacy,*

*impact litigation, and public education.*