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PRESS ALERT

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Teacher Quality and Quantity Go Hand in Hand

*A Statement on President Clinton's Remarks
to the Education Writers Association*

By Jeanne Allen
President of the Center for Education Reform

Washington, D.C. (April 15, 2000) President Clinton has once again emphasized what parents have long demanded; that all children need qualified teachers. Unfortunately, the President's recommendations fall far short of contributing to that good.

There are three major solutions to the current teacher quality and quantity crisis:

1. Allow qualified, caring professionals with expertise in other fields to teach the subjects in which they are qualified.
2. Pay these individuals – and the traditional teacher – based on student gains and achievement from year to year.
3. Expand the notion of charter schools to traditional schools to guarantee teachers the authority they need to make decisions about their work. Job satisfaction can lead to higher performance and thus better accommodations for teachers.

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