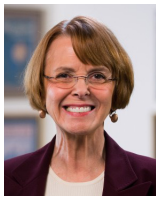


Diversity and Equity

Iowa is becoming more diverse as a state, and children are leading the way. Children of color now represent 15% of all Iowa children, and these numbers continue to rise. At the same time, children of color fare significantly worse on many measures of child well-being – poverty, low birthweight, child abuse and neglect, school dropout, and juvenile delinquency. Educators and service providers themselves generally do not reflect the diversity of the children they serve.

As U.S. Senator, what actions will you take to address current disparities in outcomes for children of color and ensure culturally competent services?



CONLIN: We must work to stress the importance of education, and then we must provide an excellent education to help end this cycle. We need to take action to ensure that our

young minority students will become role models for future generations by entering fields such as education and child service providers.



GRASSLEY: Of course, discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, or cultural background should not be tolerated. Building on a provision I helped craft in the

Higher Education Act, all educators should have training in differentiating instruction to meet the diverse learning needs of individual students so each child can reach his or her potential. Service providers should be trained to understand and meet the specific needs of individuals and families whatever their background.