**Issue 18: Do the Testing and Accountability Elements of the No Child Left Behind Act Prevent a Proper Cost-Benefit Evaluation?**

In a technologically advanced society that is progressing at a faster rate than ever before, it is critical for the youth population to get the best education possible. There have been many amendments to the education system in the past few decades but one of the biggest changes to occur was the creation of the no child left behind act. This act ensures that every student meets the required education level before graduating that would allow them to successfully contribute and succeed in the workforce. This act holds the teachers and schools accountable for the education of the students, which brings us to the critical question... Do the Testing and Accountability Elements of the No Child Left Behind Act Prevent a Proper Cost-Benefit Evaluation?

Representing the side of George Miller, Dakota Dehn believes that the no child left behind act does indeed prevent a proper cost-benefit evaluation. He reminded us that the schools and students are not making the progress necessary to succeed in the future and that something needs to be done about it. Dean states that America is in desperate need of a law that ensures that the kids are getting a proper education and that the schools and teachers should have to be held accountable for the quality of their student's education. In order to make sure this is happening schools will be given quality assessments and students will be tested on a number of subjects. If the school is underperforming it will be necessary to increase the quality of their teaching styles. In the end, when these kids enter the workforce it will not only benefit them, but it will help bolster the economy and promote progress. Dakota Dehn firmly believes that the act prevents a proper cost-benefit evaluation.

On the opposing side, Tyler Daun fights against this saying that no it does not prevent a proper cost-benefit evaluation. Representing Raymond Simon, he believes that there are really only a small number of changes that need to be made to the act, but overall it is working as intended. With research gathered and analyzed in a scientific manner, there is a definitive result that can be read which shows the quality level in which the school is running. If it is low the quality must be increased, which will help all of the students in the long run. In addition to this by gathering and compiling this data it has been hugely successful in determining the proper plan of action for the individual schools. Both Tyler and Raymond strongly believe that the no child left behind act is hugely beneficial based on the statistics that show the many benefits.

The education of our countries children is of upmost importance if we want to remain a world power. Because we are faltering in the education department compared to many of the Middle Eastern and Asian countries, something needed to be done. In my opinion the no child left behind act needs to be improved to include more varied tests. It is necessary to cover a wider array of subjects, such as the sciences and histories. Other than that simple improvement I feel assured that the no child left behind act is working and will continue to benefit the students for many years to come.