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Committee for Education Funding (CEF) statement on the cuts to federal education investments in the President's FY 2019 budget

"We should be investing in education, not cutting federal support"

Statement of Sheryl V. Cohen, Executive Director, Committee for Education Funding

"The President's budget flies in the face of Congress's action last week to raise investments in domestic priorities that matter to American families and communities. Even though Congress just reached a budget deal that increases non-defense funding for next year by \$68 billion, the President's budget slashes FY 2019 funding for education by \$3.6 billion (5.4 percent) below current levels. The budget also cuts student loans by \$203 billion over ten years. In fact, the President's budget echoes his previous request, outright eliminating many needed programs – such as programs that hire and train teachers and principals, provide safe afterschool learning environments, improve literacy, and help the poorest students attend college. It also cuts funding for other programs across the education continuum, reducing federal support for public education and access to higher education.

"Education funding is already low – Congress has eliminated 50 education programs since 2010, and federal education spending is currently below the 2011 level (it's even farther below in inflation-adjusted terms). In fact, only two cents of every federal dollar is spent on education even though we know education investments pay dividends.

"We should be investing in education, not cutting federal support. The President's budget should reflect the need to ensure that all students have access to high-quality public schools and affordable higher education. Federal investments in education show great returns, both in the short term in peoples' lives, and in the long term by creating a future workforce that is globally competitive and by lowering the costs to society that occur when we fail to adequately educate and create opportunity for all our children."

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CEF, the nation's oldest and largest education coalition, is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that reflects the broad spectrum of the education community from early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, and higher education, to adult and workforce education including students, teachers and faculty, parents, administrators, specialized instructional support personnel, librarians, other school personnel, and school board members.

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