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February 19, 2020

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Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the more than 100 education organizations, institutions, and others that are members of the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), we write to thank you for increasing education funding for fiscal year (FY) 2020 and to strongly oppose President Trump's FY 2021 education budget cuts along the education continuum. The budget cuts \$5.7 billion (8 percent) from what Congress provided for the Department of Education for FY 2020 and reduces other education-related programs. It cuts federal support for preschoolers, students in elementary and secondary school, teachers and school leaders, and low-income Americans who rely on federal aid to go to college. The President's budget also cuts student loans by a net \$170 billion over 10 years.

Despite last year's increase, funding for the Department of Education is currently more than \$7 billion below the inflation-adjusted FY 2011 level. This leaves many education programs insufficiently funded to fulfill their intended goals and meet student needs. The President's budget eliminates many important investments, slashing Education funding to less than it was 10 years ago in nominal dollars.

Investments in education currently account for only about 2 percent of the federal budget, but the President's FY 2021 budget reduces that share even further as part of its deep, multi-year cut in nondefense discretionary funding. The budget's short-sighted cuts to the federal investment in education will weaken student achievement, worsen the opportunity gap, withdraw needed support that helps students graduate from high school ready for a career or for college, and make college less affordable and attainable.

Investing in education pays dividends immediately and in the long term. CEF urges you once again to reject the President's harmful education cuts and instead to increase the federal education investment to maximize opportunities for students and their families, schools, and our nation.

1800 M Street NW, 500 South Tower, Washington, DC 20036
(202) 327-8125

www.cef.org Twitter and Instagram: @edfunding

CEF, the nation's oldest and largest education coalition, is a non-partisan and non-profit organization reflecting the entire education continuum. Our members are parents and students, teachers and school leaders, counselors, school board members, universities and school districts, associations and others with the common goal of ensuring that education is adequately funded.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Valerie C. Williams in blue ink.

Valerie C. Williams
President

Handwritten signature of Sheryl Cohen in black ink.

Sheryl Cohen
Executive Director