



Statement of Sheryl Cohen
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Statement on Administration's Proposed Cuts to Federal Education Funding in FY 2017

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"The President's budget for fiscal year 2018 slashes the federal investment in education, but on top of those deep cuts the Administration is now asking Congress to reduce education funding by billions more in the current fiscal year. The Committee for Education Funding opposes these cuts – \$9 billion for the Department of Education for 2018 and \$3 billion for 2017– that would hurt students of all ages, cutting support for teachers and school leaders as well as drastically reducing the amount of student grant aid that helps make a college education accessible to all.

"Investments in education strengthen our nation by creating a well-educated population prepared to compete in a rapidly changing world, yet education funding accounts for only 2 percent of the federal budget. In fact, education funding has already been cut, and is now below the 2010 funding, excluding Pell grants; it should not be further cut.

"Schools and students are counting on continued federal education investments to ensure access to high quality education from pre-school to higher education, to fill gaps where local and state funding is insufficient or where new priorities and needs arise, and to help with the costs of required educational services, such as special education."

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The Committee for Education Funding (CEF), the nation's oldest and largest education coalition, is a non-profit, non-partisan coalition comprising more than 100 member organizations that represent the continuum of education from preschool through higher education and everything in between including the educational enhancements that increase student achievement.