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April 9, 2019

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Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the more than 100 education organizations and institutions that are members of the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), we write to support H.R. 2021, the Investing for the People Act of 2019. The bill will prevent devastating cuts to education and other vital government programs by raising the caps on non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, allowing for critically important annual increases for NDD programs.

Importantly, enactment of H.R. 2021 will allow Congress to begin the appropriations process for FY 2020 with a realistic top line. The bill's higher cap on NDD funding and any additional cap adjustments will allow Congress to increase investments in education and other areas where the need is only growing but funding has been stagnant or cut in recent years. Education investments currently account for less than two percent of the federal budget, and funding for Department of Education programs is currently \$7 billion below the 2011 level in inflation-adjusted terms.

Absent action to raise the existing limit, NDD funding will be cut by \$54 billion in FY 2020. The possible impact of that cut was illustrated in the President's budget request, which cut the Department of Education by \$8.8 billion (12.5 percent), imposing drastic cuts to vital services along the education continuum that would hurt America's students and educators as well as our economy.

CEF, the nation's oldest and largest education coalition, is a non-partisan organization reflecting the entire education continuum, from early childhood education through elementary and secondary education to higher education, career technical and adult education, and out-of-school education needs and enhancements. Our members are teachers and school leaders, parents and students, counselors, school board members, universities and school districts, associations and others with the common goal of ensuring that education is adequately funded.

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We urge you to support legislation such as H.R. 2021 that will raise the non-defense discretionary caps for FY 2020 and FY 2021 to allow for vital investments, including increased support for education programs.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Giesecke
President



Sheryl Cohen
Executive Director