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Committee for Education Funding

May 14, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman, Senate Appropriations
Committee
S128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman,
House Appropriations Committee
H305 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Frelinghuysen:

On behalf of the 110 national education organizations and institutions that are members of the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), we write to urge you to reject the Administration's proposal to rescind \$15.4 billion that Congress has already approved. The rescission package will cut \$7 billion that would otherwise be available for education programs and other services funded through the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill for fiscal year 2019. The rescission package also rescinds funding for educational awards for AmeriCorps volunteers who have completed their terms of service. CEF is also very concerned that the Administration has announced its intention to submit additional proposals to rescind funding Congress just enacted for fiscal year 2018, undermining bipartisan support to make and keep its agreement to raise the level of non-defense discretionary funding.

Congress and the Administration approved increases in the spending caps for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 with the understanding of the needs facing the nation and with the intention to use the available resources to meet them. Congress regularly rescinds funding that is not ultimately needed for the programs it has enacted, and then reinvests the savings in other programs serving similar needs in the same funding bill. Enacting large rescissions outside of the regular appropriations process – one that is well underway already for fiscal year 2019 – not only reduces the resources available to appropriators but also reduces flexibility to reprogram funding as needed.

CEF, the nation's oldest and largest education coalition, is a non-partisan organization reflecting the entire continuum of the education community. Our long-term "5¢ Makes Sense" campaign supports the goal of increasing

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education investments from the current two percent of the federal budget to five cents on the federal dollar. CEF urges Congress to reject proposals to rescind funding provided through bipartisan negotiations, and to instead continue efforts to wisely invest resources where they are most needed, including for education programs, which are still below the fiscal year 2011 level when adjusted for inflation.

Sincerely,



Jeff Carter
President



Sheryl Cohen
Executive Director

cc:

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chairman, Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee
The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman, House Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, House Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Democratic Leader