



Statement of Sheryl Cohen
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Statement on President Trump's Education Budget for FY 2018

May 24, 2017

“President Trump’s fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget disinvests in education along the entire continuum, cutting \$8 billion in federal support for preschoolers, students in elementary school, children who use afterschool programs, high schoolers seeking preparation for the workforce, adult learners, teachers and school leaders, schools and institutions, and low-income Americans who rely on federal aid to go to college. The President’s budget also eliminates important funding for education-related services including libraries and museums. On top of these discretionary spending cuts, the budget reduces student loans by an additional \$143 billion over ten years.

“The size and scope of the President’s cuts to federal education funding are devastating. Investments in education account for only about 2 percent of the federal budget, but the President’s budget reduces that share to less than 1.8 percent. These drastic cuts to 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.

“It will be an ongoing struggle to meet the nation’s needs under the constraints of the austerity-level sequester cap on nondefense discretionary (NDD) spending, never mind the even deeper cut the President imposes. Congress’s first step should be to eliminate the FY 2018 sequester cap for NDD, which is below the funding level Congress just provided for FY 2017. Lifting the defense and NDD caps by equal amounts – maintaining the concept of parity between defense and NDD spending that has been in place since the sequester went into effect – will allow Congress to increase the federal education investment in order to maximize opportunities for students and their families, schools, and our nation.”

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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 110 organizations that represent the continuum of education from preschool through higher education and everything in between including the educational enhancements that increase student achievement.