



#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jocelyn Bissonnette**, President  
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

**Jeff Carter**, Vice President  
National Coalition for Literacy

**Megan Wolfe**, Treasurer  
ASCD

**Makese Motley**, Past President  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities

**Ally Bernstein**  
International Society for Technology in Education

**Sarah Cohen**  
American Federation of Teachers

**Jim Gelb**  
California State University

**Kimberly Jones**  
Council for Opportunity in Education

**Cyndy Littlefield**  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

**Luis Maldonado**  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

**Myrna Mandlawitz**  
MRM Associates, LLC

**Noelle Ellerson Ng**  
AASA, The School Superintendents Association

**Ron Painter**  
National Association of Workforce Boards

**Kuna Tavalin**  
Washington Partners

**Joshua Westfall**  
National PTA

**Corey Williams**  
National Education Association

**Sheryl Cohen**, Executive Director  
Committee for Education Funding

May 25, 2017

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), the nation's oldest and largest education coalition of more than 110 education institutions and organizations reflecting the broad range of the education community, we write to strongly oppose President Trump's fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget. The budget disinvests in education along the entire continuum, cutting \$9.2 billion compared with the new funding Congress provided in 2017. It cuts 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 funding for education-related services including libraries and museums, and cuts student loans by \$143 billion over ten years.

The size and scope of the President's education cuts are devastating. Investments in education currently account for only about 2 percent of the federal budget, but the President's FY 2018 budget reduces the share for education to 1.8 percent as part of its deep, multi-year cut in nondefense discretionary funding. The budget's drastic 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.

Instead of using the President's budget as a starting point for funding negotiations, we urge you instead to first address the need to raise the austerity level sequester caps on nondefense discretionary funding, which for FY 2018 is below the level Congress provided for FY 2017. Eliminating the sequester caps and maintaining the long-standing principle of parity –

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

[www.cef.org](http://www.cef.org) Twitter and Instagram: @edfunding

by matching increases in defense and nondefense discretionary caps that has been in place since the sequester went into effect – will allow Congress to increase the federal education investment to maximize opportunities for students and their families, schools, and our nation.

Investing in education pays dividends immediately and in the long term. We urge you to reject the President’s harmful education cuts and start with a level of nondefense funding that allows needed investments in education that will benefit us all.

Sincerely,



Jocelyn Bissonnette  
President



Sheryl Cohen  
Executive Director