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August 13, 2018

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Committee for Education Funding

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

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chairman  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
136 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), a coalition of 111 national education associations and institutions spanning the continuum from early learning to postgraduate education to adult education and education enhancements, we write to thank you for the increased investments in education provided for the current fiscal year and urge you to build on them as you consider the fiscal year 2019 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill on the Senate floor. We also encourage you to support the highest possible 302(b) allocation when the bill goes to conference.

CEF supports greater investments in education because they are fundamental to maintaining a strong economy with a well-educated populace ready to succeed in the global environment. As you know, until this year, funding for the Department of Education had stayed below the 2011 level despite growing need. Over that same period, the Labor-HHS-Education bill received only small percentage increases even though it funds an array of vital services, including education investments, and accounts for almost one third of all non-defense discretionary funding.

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While we appreciate that the Senate Appropriations Committee bill increases funding for a few education programs, it makes a net cut in available resources for the Department of Education after taking account the \$600 million rescission of previously appropriated Pell Grant funding. We hope that during floor consideration and in conference, Congress will provide additional investments in education across the continuum – from early education to higher education, including elementary and secondary education, career and technical education, adult education and workforce development, and out-of-the-classroom education programs. Individual success and the nation’s economic strength are inextricably linked to educational attainment, and there is clear evidence of the effectiveness of investing in education in both the near and the long term.

Sincerely,



Jeff Carter  
President



Sheryl Cohen  
Executive Director