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August 14, 2018

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The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey, Vice Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-305 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS- Education, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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 when the House considers the fiscal year 2019 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. 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. The House Appropriations Committee bill

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provides no increase for the bill for 2019, even though Congress provided an \$18 billion increase for non-defense discretionary funding.

While we appreciate that the House Appropriations Committee bill provides modest increases for a few education programs, 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