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Joel Packer,
Executive Director
Committee for Education Funding

June 21, 2010

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), a coalition of over 80 national education associations and institutions from preschool to postgraduate education, we strongly urge you to include two critical education provisions in the Fiscal Year 2010 emergency supplemental appropriations bill; a \$23 billion education jobs fund to help struggling schools prevent significant numbers of layoffs and harmful education program cuts and \$5.7 billion to pay off the Pell grant funding shortfall, to prevent over eight million college students from having their grants reduced.

States, school districts and colleges face a serious fiscal crisis. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) education funds have saved over 300,000 education jobs and prevented massive layoffs and education cuts. However, the termination of ARRA education funds will result in substantial cuts and layoffs at all levels of education. In addition, due to unprecedented and growing state budget gaps, schools and colleges are facing additional deep cuts in state aid.

A survey by the American Association of School Administrators found that 275,000 teachers and other education employees face layoffs in the upcoming school year. Education Secretary Duncan has called this a "catastrophe unfolding across the country... If we do not help avert this state and local budget crisis, we could impede reform and fail another generation of children."

The \$23 billion education jobs fund will not only prevent layoffs of teachers, instructional support personnel and other school staff, but will also help the economy in the short-term. Investments in education also pay off over the long-term by reducing unemployment and increasing family income. Saving 300,000 education jobs, preserving critically important education programs, and ensuring college access to million of low- and middle-income students is not a bailout but a buy-in for the future of our children and our nation.

CEF also urges you not to cut funds for other education programs to pay for the education jobs fund and Pell grants. Doing so would reduce the benefits of these supplemental funds and create a harmful precedent of cutting one education program to pay for another. Attached to this letter are additional facts about the need for the education jobs fund and paying off the Pell Grant shortfall.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Fansmith
President

Joel Packer
Executive Director