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Joel Packer,
Executive Director
Committee for Education Funding

July 29, 2010

Dear Senator,

The Committee for Education Funding (CEF), a coalition of over 80 national education associations and institutions from preschool to postgraduate education, is writing to express our views on the Fiscal Year 2011 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill as reported on Tuesday from Subcommittee.

We understand the significant fiscal constraints the Subcommittee and full Committee are operating under and appreciate that the bill provides increased funding above FY 10 levels for the Department of Education.

We appreciate Sen. Harkin's leadership in producing a bill provides increased funding for a range of education programs including Title I, IDEA grants to states and Part C grants for Infants and Families, School Improvement Grants, the high graduation initiative, Education for Homeless Children, State assessment grants, School Leadership, English Language Acquisition grants, Adult Education State Grants, higher education Teacher Quality Partnership Grants, TRIO, education research and statistics, statewide data systems, Head Start and \$300 million for the new Early Learning Challenge Fund, while also providing funding for recent initiatives including Race To The Top, Investing in Innovation, and Promise Neighborhoods.

We also appreciate that the Subcommittee provided funding for many programs proposed for elimination or consolidation in the President's budget.

However, we do not support the elimination of several important programs including Javits Gifted and Talented Education, Even Start, Smaller Learning Communities, Troops-To-Teachers, and Javits Graduate Fellowships.

We look forward to working with the Committee as the bill moves forward to restore funding for these programs, obtain funding to pay off the \$5.7 billion Pell grant shortfall, and provide further increases for other programs including those that were frozen at FY 10 levels.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Fansmith
President

Joel Packer
Executive Director