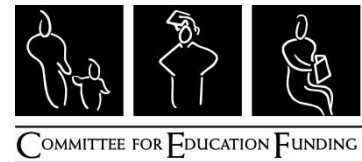




COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING



November 20, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cochran, Chairman Rogers, Vice Chairwoman Mikulski, and Ranking Member Lowey,

We are writing on behalf of our three coalitions, which represent the full range of stakeholders in the programs of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education and related agencies, to express our concern with the recently reported 302(b) allocation for the subcommittee of \$161.96 billion. This is below the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 level of \$163.6 billion without accounting for inflation. In May, 812 organizations called on you to provide the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee with an allocation of at least that FY 2010 level.

If the Labor-HHS-Education subcommittee had gotten the same proportion of the additional \$33 billion available from the Bipartisan Budget Act for nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs as its current share of overall NDD funding, it would have received an increased allocation of \$10.5 billion, instead of the increase of \$8.91 over the previous House allocation/\$8.77 billion over the previous Senate allocation. Indeed, the revised allocation provides an overall increase compared to FY 2015 of just \$5.2 billion.

The programs and services administered by these Departments and agencies serve a broad range of constituencies and needs, but they all share a common, fundamental goal of strengthening this nation by improving Americans' lives. Despite their profound impact on American health, child development, educational and skills attainment, and productivity, these programs and services have been cut by 12 percent (\$21 billion) since FY 2010, adjusted for inflation. In real terms, FY 2015 is at its second lowest level since FY 2001—the only lower year being FY 2013 when sequestration's across-the-board cuts took effect. Preventing almost one million citizens from accessing the critical workforce and job training services that Congress overwhelmingly authorized last year.

While we understand that the allocations are largely set, we urge you to provide additional resources for the subcommittee through additional CHIMP funding. Without a further increase in the subcommittee's resources, it will be virtually impossible to fully fund important new initiatives—such as combating antibiotic resistance and the opioid epidemic—or adequately invest in proven programs—such as moving the federal share of funding for IDEA special education closer to the promised level of 40 percent, and providing resources to meet the health, safety and quality requirements established by the

recent bipartisan Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) reauthorization—without shortchanging other equally important initiatives.

We urge you to recognize the value of health, education, child development, social services, and job training and workforce development in improving the lives of American families and to provide the Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee with additional resources through CHIMPs or other methods.

Sincerely,



Emily Holubowich
Executive Director
Coalition for Health Funding



Joel Packer
Executive Director
Committee for Education Funding



Bridget Brown
Co-Chair
Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce

Cc:
Chairman Blunt
Chairman Cole
Ranking Member Murray
Ranking Member DeLauro