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May 4, 2020

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Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the more than 100 education organizations, institutions, and others that are members of the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), we urge Congress to move quickly to provide the large investments in education that are needed now more than ever. Greater federal funding is vital both to address the new needs caused by the pandemic and the resulting state and local revenue shortfalls that jeopardize education, and for fiscal year (FY) 2021 to continue to meet greater needs along the education continuum.

We thank Congress for providing nearly \$31 billion for education in the CARES Act as an important down payment on meeting educational needs. However, that funding in combination with regular FY 2020 appropriations will not be sufficient to allow school districts, institutions of higher education, students, and families to cover the additional costs created by the pandemic and to meet the education needs from pre-K through higher education and outside-the-classroom learning environments. Even before the pandemic hit there was a need for greater federal investments, and that need has only grown; regular FY 2020 funding for education is more than \$7 billion below the FY 2011 level in inflation-adjusted terms.

Economic projections show that the fiscal impact of the coronavirus pandemic could be far worse than in the Great Recession, and state and local governments have already [begun laying off workers](#) as the first step of many that could jeopardize education budgets for years. The [National Governors Association](#) has requested \$500 billion to replace lost state revenues, along with additional support for education and other key services. To combat the last recession's impact on education Congress provided more than \$100 billion in education funding in the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act along with another \$10 billion for the Education Jobs Fund to protect teaching jobs at all levels of education.

Various members of the education community have made the case this month for similar types of immediate relief and support, including more than [\\$200 billion for states for K-12 education](#), almost [\\$47 billion for higher education](#), additional support for [Career Technical Education](#), and [student loan relief policies](#), among others. We

1800 M Street NW, 500 South Tower, Washington, DC 20036
(202) 327-8125

www.cef.org Twitter and Instagram: @edfunding

urge you to consider the importance of investments in education and the many needs of students, the teaching community, and the economy as Congress moves quickly to provide a dramatic increase in the next coronavirus relief measure and through FY 2021 appropriations.

CEF, the nation's oldest and largest education coalition, is a non-partisan and non-profit organization reflecting the entire education continuum. Our members are parents and students, teachers and school leaders, counselors, school board members, universities and school districts, associations and others with the common goal of ensuring that education is adequately funded.

Sincerely,



Valerie C. Williams
President



Sheryl Cohen
Executive Director