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July 22, 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 quickly enact the large supplemental investments in education needed as the nation's schools, colleges, students, and families face increased costs associated with safely ensuring teaching and learning for the upcoming academic year. Along the education continuum, schools, institutions of higher education, providers of wraparound educational services, and others need greater federal funding to meet the additional costs of the pandemic and to cover the resulting state and local revenue shortfalls that jeopardize education. Increased support for education will also be needed in fiscal year (FY) 2021 to continue to meet greater needs.

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. The nearly \$31 billion for education in the CARES Act was an important down payment on meeting immediate educational needs this spring, but far more is needed quickly to make education whole. Students, schools, universities, and others along the continuum need support for the delivery of education regardless of the format through which it is offered; the point is to ensure that teaching and learning can continue in a safe manner.

The scope of need is wide and deep, and while there are several current pieces of legislation and proposals to provide increased federal funding to help address the needs of the education community, none includes an amount that would completely cover the new costs associated with providing education during this pandemic. CEF urges you to consider the importance of investments in education and the many needs of students, schools, colleges, universities, the teaching community, and the economy as Congress moves

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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 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