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July 29, 2021

Dear Members of Congress:

We write on behalf of the more than 100 education organizations, institutions, and others that are members of the Committee for Education Funding (CEF) to **urge you to support the historic increase in education investments in H.R. 4502, the omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year 2022**. The \$102.8 billion provided for Department of Education programs is a \$29.8 billion (41 percent) increase over the 2021 level and will build on the vital COVID relief that Congress already enacted to help schools, institutions of higher education, students and families, and entire communities address their increased costs and needs. This bill also contains needed increases in funding for early childhood programs, workforce training, and other education-related programs outside the Department of Education.

The federal government has underinvested in education due to tight caps on non-defense discretionary funding in recent years. Those budget constraints led to cuts in funding for Education, where funding remained below the FY 2011 level for six years and where funding for on-going education programs is still \$7 billion below the FY 2011 level in inflation-adjusted terms. Well before the pandemic hit there was a need for greater federal investments, and that need has not gone away.

This year offers several opportunities to address long under-funded education priorities that span the education continuum from early education, K-12 education, adult and career technical education, post-secondary education, and out-of-school educational services. The education funding increases before the House this week represent a first step to provide immediate investments that will reap returns far beyond each student's educational achievement next year.

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, specialize instructional support personnel, school board members, universities and school districts, associations, and others with the common goal of ensuring that education is adequately funded.

Sincerely,

Luis Maldonado
President

Sarah Abernathy
Executive Director

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