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October 20, 2021

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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 express support for the transformative education investments in the Build Back Better Act. The fiscal year 2022 reconciliation package crafted by House committees includes unprecedented and long-needed investments along the education continuum, and we urge you to maintain the education investments as you negotiate the contents of the final reconciliation bill.

Education pays, both immediately and over time in terms of increased knowledge and abilities for students, an educated workforce ready to succeed in a competitive global environment, stronger communities, and a boosted economy. Wise investments in education make a difference to students, families, educators, and a society that benefits from more opportunities and a well-educated populace. Investments in education are among the best value for the government, with dividends repaid many times over even if just measured in dollars saved and returned via taxes based on earnings related to educational achievement. The Build Back Better agenda includes vital new and expanded investments covering the range of education, all of which are important.

After years of tight budget constraints that led to underinvestment in education – funding for on-going Education programs is still \$7 billion below that 2011 level in inflation-adjusted terms – this reconciliation bill represents the opportunity to finally invest in our future with strategic and long-term funding along the education continuum. As you craft the reconciliation bill, we urge you to maintain these vital education investments at the highest possible levels to support sustainable educational improvements that will have profound impacts on teaching and learning, supporting families and communities, and boosting the economy.

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www.cef.org Twitter and Instagram: @edfunding

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, specialized 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luis Maldonado". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Luis Maldonado
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Abernathy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Sarah Abernathy
Executive Director