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July 11, 2022

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Funding

Dear Member of Congress:

We write on behalf of the more than 100 education organizations and institutions that are members of the Committee for Education Funding (CEF) to **support the increased education investments in the House Appropriations Committee's fiscal year 2023 Labor-HHS-Education bill**. Although not quite as large as the funding increases CEF supports in the President's request, the \$86.7 billion provided for Department of Education programs is an \$11.3 billion (15 percent) increase over the net 2022 level. These investments will build on last year's funding increases to help schools, students and families, institutions of higher education, and entire communities provide high quality education. This bill also provides needed increases in funding for early childhood programs, workforce training, and other education-related programs outside the Department of Education.

Tight caps on non-defense discretionary funding from 2013 to 2021 led the federal government to underinvest in education despite growing needs; Department of Education funding remained below the FY 2011 level for six years, and current funding is still \$12 billion below the FY 2011 level in inflation-adjusted terms. The need for greater federal investments has only grown since the pandemic began. With COVID-relief funds almost entirely obligated, we urge Congress 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 approved by the House Appropriations Committee represent a first step to provide immediate investments that will reap returns for years to come.

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,

Emmanuel A. Guillory
President

Sarah Abernathy
Executive Director

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