C E F

COMMITTEE FOR
EDUCATION FUNDING

November 28, 2022

Dear Members 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 **urge Congress to quickly enact fiscal year 2023 funding with the largest possible increases for education**. The last several years have been packed with previously unimaginable challenges for education, and recent achievement scores and the ongoing experience of all involved show there is much more to do to recover. As the immediate crisis of the pandemic wanes, the problems for teaching and learning remain and, in some cases, are growing, and could impact students and the economy for years to come.

Congress should follow up the emergency COVID-relief spending with increased, on-going support along the education continuum. After the Great Recession, Congress provided one-time emergency education funding but then left education funding to shrink in subsequent years when most states decreased their investment in education. In fact, federal funding for the Department of Education is currently more than $12 billion below the 2011 level in inflation-adjusted dollars.

Although the school year and the fiscal year have begun with funding frozen at the 2022 level, Congress now has the opportunity to invest in education with FY 2023 appropriations. Greater investments can both address the effects of the pandemic (learning disruptions, lost academic time, and the physical and mental health hits, among others) while also addressing needs that existed long before the pandemic (support for early childhood education, special education, access to higher education, and career technical education, among others).

The President requested historic increased investments for education programs for FY 2023. In July, the House Committee on Appropriations passed similar vital increases, and the Senate Committee on Appropriations released a bill with slightly smaller increases to address the needs in the education space. Any further delay in enacting new investments in education will only add to the difficulties for students, educators, school districts, colleges, and others providing education services.

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We urge Congress to provide a significant increase in investments in education, which are among the best the country can make. They reap rewards immediately in terms of student achievement and knowledge, and over the long term in greater economic output, community engagement, and a well-informed populace prepared for a global economic environment.

Sincerely,

Emmanual A. Guillory
President

Sarah Abernathy
Executive Director