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January 30, 2026

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Dear Members of Congress:

We write on behalf of the more than 110 education organizations, institutions, and other members of the [Committee for Education Funding \(CEF\)](#) to support the education funding and protections for education programs in [Division B](#) - which provides fiscal year (FY) 2026 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations – of H.R. 7148 as revised. The bill's education funding is an important downpayment on needed investments in education; Department of Education funding has been essentially frozen since FY 2023 and is now \$20 billion below what Congress provided 15 years ago in inflation-adjusted dollars.

Equally important, the legislation includes clear direction for the Department of Education to provide funding on time, to the programs and projects Congress specified, and with sufficient staff at the Department of Education to fulfill all statutory responsibilities. Notably, the bill also refers to Congress's intentions spelled out in the [Joint Explanatory Statement](#) that prohibit unilateral transfers of funding among programs. The statement also clarifies that "no authorities exist for the Department of Education to transfer its fundamental responsibilities under numerous authorizing and appropriations laws, including through procuring services from other Federal agencies, of carrying out those programs, projects, and activities to other Federal agencies."

Last year the country experienced harmful impacts on education when Congress did not enact a FY 2025 Labor-HHS-Education bill that specified program funding levels. Claiming increased flexibility as a result of the Continuing Resolution that funded the government, the Department of Education cancelled funding, withheld formula grant funding for weeks, transferred funding among programs, and announced its intention to dismantle the Department, starting with eliminating staff and transferring management of programs to other agencies. These actions caused chaos for schools, researchers, universities, and out-of-schooltime educational services that had to pause or eliminate services and programs and curtail their plans due to the uncertainty of federal funding.

We urge Congress to enact full-year funding for education and related programs and to ensure that the Administration follows all laws as it provides and oversees these vital investments that support teaching and learning.

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,

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school board members, universities and school districts, and associations working to ensure that education is adequately funded.

Sincerely,



Frank Ballmann
President



Sarah Abernathy
Executive Director