March 31, 2023

Dear Chair Murray, Chair Granger, Vice Chair Collins, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The 469 undersigned organizations—representing the full range of stakeholders supporting the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill—thank you for your leadership in supporting families and communities. We urge you to build on the previous fiscal year (FY) investment of $226.8 billion by increasing the FY 2024 allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee to a level that ensures robust and sustained investments so that these programs can meet vital needs. Additionally, we call on you to ensure that non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding is not cut or capped in a manner that cuts spending in the FY 2024 appropriations process.

The programs and services funded by the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee have a profound impact on health and well-being, child development, educational and skills attainment, and productivity, yet they have been shortchanged in the appropriations process since spending caps were enacted in 2011. We recommend an allocation that builds upon the FY 2023 investment to address the gaps created from years of underfunding these essential programs. The need for these key investments has only grown over time, leaving important services and activities underfunded by billions of dollars. Any proposals to cut total FY 2024 funding or to cap NDD funding in a manner that cuts spending for FY2024 or future fiscal years will further undermine the future strength, economic development, and security of our nation.

While Congress enacted COVID-19 emergency funding to address urgent needs caused by the pandemic on a short-term basis, this pandemic supplemental funding does not replace the need for ongoing increases to base appropriations for services to fulfill the goals of the bill’s programs. We need sustained annual increases across the Labor-HHS-Education programs to address long-standing needs that existed before the pandemic, and these increases cannot come at the expense of other programs within the bill or other NDD programs. The programs in the Labor-HHS-Education bill strengthen the nation by improving Americans’ lives and meeting basic needs for a broad range of constituencies. The effects of chronic underfunding have impacted programs that support education, public health, health research, job training, and social services. The effects include:

- The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) finally grew in FY 2023, after having been cut 40.6 percent from FY 2010 to FY 2022, adjusted for inflation. Growth is essential, with average households expected to pay 12.7 percent more for heat this winter, and nearly 55 percent of people with household incomes of $25,000 or less reporting they had to reduce or forego basic household expenses to pay their energy bills.
- Eroding the public health and research infrastructure and workforce, limiting our ability to address disease prevention, respond to future health crises, and monitor ongoing health trends for new and emerging threats.
- Hindering efforts to address learning loss and opportunity gaps created by the pandemic, to raise student achievement, and to increase high school graduation rates, college affordability, and college completion.
- Leaving far too many low-income children without access to high quality preschool and other early learning opportunities.
• Providing child care to only one in nine eligible children under age 6, with child care providers paid so little that one in four early childhood educators take second jobs to make ends meet.
• Hindering workers’ access to the skills, training, and education necessary to access the jobs for which employers are currently hiring.
• Preventing almost one million people from accessing the critical workforce and job training services that Congress overwhelmingly authorized in 2014. The U.S. invests less than every other industrialized country in active labor market policy, except for Mexico and Chile, and would need to invest $80 billion annually just to reach the median of our international peers.
• Ignoring the needs of individuals who find themselves without a high school credential and who need a pathway back to education, employment, and full participation in their communities.
• Providing inadequate resources to mitigate the worsening substance use disorder crisis in communities throughout the country.
• While starting to reverse Maternal and Child Health Block Grant funding losses, FY 2023 funding remains about 10 percent below the levels in FY 2010 when taking inflation into account.
• Failing to keep pace with growing child welfare needs, especially as communities grapple with the destructive impact of substance use disorders on families. Child Welfare Services funding, for example, was flat-funded in FY 2023, leaving it more than 27 percent below the FY 2010 level, adjusted for inflation.

We urge you to commit to improving the lives of Americans by boosting the allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education bill for FY 2024 to provide needed services for the American public while ensuring continued support for NDD programs. If you have questions about this letter, please contact:

• Sarah Abernathy, Committee for Education Funding (abernathy@cef.org);
• Erin Will Morton, Coalition for Health Funding (emorton@dc-crd.com);
• Megan Evans, Campaign to Invest in America’s Workforce (MeganE@nationalskillscoalition.org); or
• Deborah Weinstein, Coalition on Human Needs (dweinstein@chn.org).

AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education)
Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Access Technologies, Inc. / Oregon Statewide Assistive Technology Program
Action on Smoking and Health
ADAP Advocacy Association
Addiction Connections Resource
Advance CTE
Advocates for Children of New York
African American Health Alliance
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American College of Radiology
American Council on Education
American Dental Education Association
American Federation of School Administrators
American Federation of Teachers
American Friends Service Committee
American Geriatrics Society
American Library Association
American Lung Association
American Muslim Health Professionals
American Neurological Association
American Psychological Association Services, Inc.
American Public Health Association
American School Counselor Association
American School Health Association
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Nephrology
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Statistical Association
American Thoracic Society
AMORC
APLA Health
Arizona Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Arizona Poor People’s Campaign
Arizona WESTOP
Arkansas Association of Student Assistance Programs
Arkansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Arthritis Foundation
ASPIRE, Inc.
Association for Career and Technical Education
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association for Psychological Science
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)
Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents [ALAS]
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)
Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of the Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU)
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Association to Benefit Children
Autism Society of America
Autistic People of Color Fund
Be Frank 4 Justice
Big Cities Health Coalition
Biophysical Society
Brain Aneurysm Foundation
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation
California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Caribbean Association of Educational Opportunity Programs
Caring Across Generations
Caring Ambassadors Program
CAST
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Centro de Servicios Para Campesinos
Chapel of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Campus Ministry
Chicago Recovery Alliance
Chiefs for Change
Child Care Solutions, Inc.
Children’s Advocacy Institute
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Home Society of America
Children's Trust Fund Alliance
Church World Service
City Year, Inc.
Climate Psychiatry Alliance
Coalition for Health Funding
Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Coalition on Human Needs
Coalition to Shelter and Support the Homeless
Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning
Colorado ASPIRE
Colorado Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Committee for Education Funding (CEF)
Community Access National Network
Community Action Partnership of North Central Missouri
Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County
Community Build, Inc.
Community Change Action
Community Servings
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families
Connecticut Association for Education Opportunity Programs
Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
CoSN
Council for a Strong America
Council For Opportunity in Education (COE)
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Council of the Great City Schools
Council on Undergraduate Research
Coyote RI
DC Metro Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Delaware Association of School Psychologists (DASP)
Delaware Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Detroit Champions for Hope
Disabled In Action of Metropolitan NY
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)
Drug Policy Alliance
Early Care & Education Consortium
Early Care & Education Pathways to Success (ECEPTS)
Early Learning Essentials
Economic Policy Institute
EDGE Consulting Partners
Educare Learning Network
Education Reform Now
Educational Opportunity Association
Endocrine Society
Epilepsy Alliance America
Epilepsy Foundation
Esperanza United (formerly Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network)
FASP
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Fight Crime: Invest In Kids
Five Horizons Health Services
FL National Organization for Women
Florida Association of School Psychologists
Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy
Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Friends of the Institute of Education Sciences
Full Plates Full Potential
Futures Without Violence
GAWAND
Georgia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Georgia TRIO
Goodwill Industries International
Great Lakes ADA of Michigan
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Green Dot Public Schools National
Guam Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Hawaii Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!
Healthcare Alternative System
Healthy Teen Network
Hepatitis C Association
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education (HECSE)
HIMSS
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (HACU)
Hispanic Federation
HIV Dental Alliance
HIV Medicine Association
Human Service Chamber of Franklin County
IC&RC
Idaho Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Illinois Alliance for Reentry and Justice
Illinois Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Illinois School Psychologist Association
Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness
Impact Fund
Indiana Association of School Psychologists
Indiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Institute for Educational Leadership
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)
Integrated Community Solutions, Inc
Iowa Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Iowa TRIO
Japanese American Citizens League
Jewish Family Service of Colorado
Jewish Women International
Johnson Park Center (JPC)
Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Kentucky Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Kids Above All
KIPP Foundation
Knowledge Alliance
Knowledgepanel
Lafayette Urban Ministry
Lakeshore Foundation
Latinos for Education
LDATX
LeadingAge
Learning Disabilities Assn. of Delaware
Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) of Michigan
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Learning Disabilities Association of Connecticut
Learning Disabilities Association of Wisconsin
LIFEQUEST INC
LifeSpan Daycare Inc
Linden Health Department
Literations
Little Listeners of the Carolinas
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Long Term Care Ombudsman Services of San Luis Obispo County
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Los Angeles Unified School District
Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Programs
Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Louisiana School Psychological Association
Maine Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
March of Dimes
Mary House, Inc.
Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Meals on Wheels America
Medical Society of New York State
MENTOR National
MEOA
Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Mission: Readiness
Mississippi Center for Justice
Mississippi Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Missouri Budget Project
Missouri Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
MNTRIO Association
MO-KAN-NE Chapter of the Educational Opportunity Association
MomsRising
Montana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Multnomah Education Service District
Muscular Dystrophy Association
NASDSE
NASTAD
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association for Music Education
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Regional Councils
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)
National Association of Workforce Boards
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE)
National Center for Teacher Residencies (NCTR)
National Child Abuse Coalition
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Coalition of STD Directors
National College Attainment Network
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Council on Aging
National Disability Institute
National Education Association
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Health Law Program
National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
National Institute for Children's Health Quality
National Job Corps Association
National Juvenile Justice Network
National MS Society
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Rural Education Association
National Skills Coalition
National Summer Learning Association (NSLA)
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR)
National Women's Law Center
NC TRIO
Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Nevada Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
New England Educational Opportunity Association
New Hampshire Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
New Jersey Association of School Psychologists
New Jersey Association on Correction
New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
New Leaders
New Mexico Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
New York Charter Schools Association
New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
New York State Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
North Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers


North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
OCHIN
Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Oregon Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Oregon School Psychologists Association
Oregon TRIO Association
ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED about RURAL EDUCATION
P.O.S.T Protect Our Stolen Treasures
PA Education Association
PA TRIO
Parents Anonymous Inc.
Parents as Teachers
PbS Learning Institute, Inc.
Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project
Piedmont Habitat for Humanity, Inc.
Pinnacle Community Services
Placer People of Faith Together
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
PlusInc
Poverty Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
Poverty Reduction Services dba Circles Salt Lake
PrEP4All
Prevent Blindness
Prevent Blindness Wisconsin
Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
Pride At Work
Prism Health North Texas
Project Bread
Project FEED
Public Advocacy for Kids
Public Justice Center
Puerto Rico Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
ReadyNation
Rebuild America's Schools
Reproductive Justice Inside
Research!America
RESULTS
RESULTS - Columbus Ohio Group Volunteer
Rhode Island Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Rochester NY RocACTS in Faith in Action.
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
Saddle Mountain Unified School District #90/TVHS
Safe States Alliance
Safer Foundation
Saga Education
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Sanctuary of Hope
Sanctuary of Hope LA
School Social Work Association of America
SchoolHouse Connection
Sciencecorps
SIECUS
Silver State Equality
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Reproductive Investigation
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for Women’s Health Research
Society of Family Planning
Society of Women Engineers
Sojourners
South Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
South Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (SAEOPP)
SSDA
St. Francis Center
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
StrongHearts Native Helpline
Student Veterans of America
Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice
Susan G. Komen
Teach For America
TEAM for WV Children / Prevent Child Abuse WV
Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Texas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Texas TRIO
The Advocacy Institute
The AIDS Institute
The American College of Preventive Medicine
The Augustinians
The California State University
The Center for Employment Opportunities
The Education Trust
The Forum for Youth Investment
The Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group, Inc. - HCMSG
The Institute for Human Services
The Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The National Domestic Violence Hotline
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
The STARR Coalition
The Workers Circle
Treatment Action Group
Trust for America's Health
TrustedRiders Inc
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee
UCLA
UnidosUS
Union Presbyterian Food Pantry
United Way of King County
University of California Student Association
University of California System
University of California, Irvine
University of California, San Diego
Utah Association of School Psychologists
Utah Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Utahns Against Hunger
UVM Autism collaborative
Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Virgin Islands Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Virgin Islands Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Council
Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Virginia Technology Engineering Educator Association
Vision Inc.
Vivent Health
Voice for Adoption
VOICES for Alabama's Children
Voices of Hope, Inc.
Washington Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP
Washington State Parent Ambassadors
We Are Many United Against Hate
West Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Western Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel
Whitman-Walker
Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Woman with a Plan
Women Who Never Give Up
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom US
WV TRIO
Wyoming Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
YMCA of the USA
Youth Employment Solutions
Youth First
Youth Villages
ZERO TO THREE