

## Committee for Education Funding (CEF) Advocacy Effort FAQ

**What is the 302(b) letter?** The 302(b) allocation is the amount of funding the House and Senate Appropriations Committees provide to each of their 12 subcommittees. The subcommittees then divide up the funding among the agencies and programs within their respective jurisdictions. Each year, CEF, the Coalition for Health Funding, Coalition on Human Needs, and Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce partner to circulate a letter throughout our communities in support of strong 302(b) allocations for the House and Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittees. The bigger the allocations, the better our chances of securing funding for the programs we support and of preventing funding cuts.

**Why are you circulating the letter now?** We know that the FY 2025 appropriations cycle will be challenging, with a divided Congress, differing views between and within the caucuses about how much government funding should be provided, and a statutory cap on non-defense funding for FY 2025 that allows only a 1 percent increase above the cap for FY 2024. Perhaps even more challenging, there is no consensus yet on how much additional uncapped funding Congress will allow through budgetary adjustments. Based on decisions made last year, it's clear that fiscal conservatives will be pushing to cut the total amount of non-defense funding below the FY 2024 level. We want to send this letter to Appropriations Committee leaders before they make decisions on the size of the budgetary adjustments, the spending total (the 302(a) allocation), and the 302(b) allocations for the subcommittees. Our goal is to secure hundreds of signatories across our communities so we can have a meaningful impact on these decisions.

**Why should my organization sign the letter?** Without a strong 302(b) allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education bill, there is little chance to increase funding for education programs. Last year, with similar tight spending constraints, Congress cut the bill's allocation and cut education funding. The President has requested an increase of \$3.3 billion (4.2 percent) for Department of Education programs this year – a welcome boost but even that will be hard to achieve given the constraints outlined above. I hope national organizations and state and local entities that care about federal funding for education and other programs, projects, and activities within the Labor-HHS-Education bill should sign this letter.

**What happens once my organization signs?** All signatures will be added to the letter and sent to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees by early May. We will forward CEF members a copy of the letter for your records. A copy will also be posted on the CEF website: [www.cef.org](http://www.cef.org).

**What can I do to help with this effort?** Sign on, of course, and/or forward this message and letter far and wide. We are accepting signatures from national, state, and local organizations, institutions, businesses, companies, etc., but not individuals. Your state or regional affiliates can also sign the letter, so please share it with them!