

October 28, 2015

Dear Representative,

On behalf of AASA, The School Superintendents Association, representing more than 13,000 school system leaders across the country, I write to express our support for the Bipartisan Budget Agreement (BBA) of 2015. As Congress moves forward with its work to wrap the Federal Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) work, the BBA is critical to investment in education as it raises the very damaging funding caps established in sequester.

When it comes to the Labor, Health-Human Services, Education and Other (LHHS) appropriations bills advanced by each chamber, we understand the importance of fiscal responsibility and have meaningfully engaged in conversations around spending cuts, restraint, revenues and more. There are two sides to responsibility, though, and the magnitude of the cuts contained in both bills were deliberate and irresponsible.

Under the current sequester spending caps for non-defense discretionary (NDD) funds, FY16 LHHS appropriations bills cut funding for education by \$2.8 billion in the House alone. The BBA not only puts an end to the damaging caps but also puts Congress on a path to be able to restore cuts and invest further in our nation's schools and the students they serve.

Federal dollars may represent a small portion of overall K-12 funding, but they play a critical role in supporting the efforts of our nation's public schools in preparing students to be college and career ready. We commend Congress' effort to work collaboratively to replace sequester, advancing the BBA as a way to provide federal funding levels that support school efforts to close achievement gaps, increase graduation rates and improve student learning and achievement. We support the Bipartisan Budget Agreement of 2015 and urge you to vote YES.

Sincerely,



Noelle Ellerson  
Associate Executive Director, Policy & Advocacy