

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Educations Appropriations Subcommittee
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Educations Appropriations Subcommittee
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Educations Appropriations Subcommittee
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Educations Appropriations Subcommittee
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

May 3, 2018

Dear Chairmen Blunt and Cole and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

We are pleased that Congress gave priority to the nation's longstanding commitment to the education of its young people and support for its educators in the FY18 Omnibus Appropriations Act. We are particularly appreciative that the House and Senate Appropriations Committees rejected efforts to reduce or eliminate funding for the Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants Program (Title II-A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)). These funds are critical in supporting our nation's educators in meeting the needs of their students. As you begin work on FY19 appropriations, we urge you to continue this support by increasing your investment in our nation's educators by funding Title II-A at its fully authorized level of \$2.295 billion as part of a robust allocation for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Overwhelmingly approved by a bipartisan Congress, ESSA provides new opportunities for states and districts to use Title II-A funds to attract, support and retain high-quality and diverse educators by providing significantly more time for planning and collaboration, job embedded professional development that is aligned to student and teacher needs, coaching and mentorship. Many states report that Title II-A funds make possible the majority of their professional development for educators. In addition, these funds can be used to support the educator workforce pipeline. Also, twenty-four states have committed to using the optional 3% set-aside in Title II-A to make strategic investments in school leaders.

We urge you to continue your support for teachers, principals, and other school leaders to improve instruction and their commitment to ensuring that each student graduates from high school poised for lifelong success. We believe our nation's educators must have access to high-quality professional learning opportunities that support their capacity to effectively improve student learning. Indeed, ESSA plans show states' commitment to professional learning for teachers and principals, and their reliance on Title II-A funding in order to deliver this support. That is why we urge you and your subcommittees to continue supporting this critical program by fully funding Title II-A in FY19 at its authorized level of \$2.295 billion. Thank you for your leadership on this critical matter.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association
Advance CTE
Afterschool Alliance
Alliance for Excellent Education
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)
American Federation of School Administrators
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees
American Federation of Teachers
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
ASCD
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators
Association of School Business Officials, International (ASBO)
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL)
Committee for Children
Council of Administrators of Special Education
EDGE Consulting LLC
Educators for Excellence
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education
International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Learning Forward
Learning Policy Institute
National Association for Music Education
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Center for Teacher Residencies
National Council of Teachers of English
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Education Association
National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform
National Indian Education Association
National PTA
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium
National Rural Education Association
National Science Teachers Association
National Writing Project
New America's Education Policy Program
New Leaders
New Teacher Center

NYC Leadership Academy

Public Advocacy for Kids

SHAPE America - Society of Health and Physical Educators

STEM Education Coalition

Teach For America

Teach Plus

Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children

University Council for Educational Administration