

June 10, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The 292 undersigned organizations – representing the full range of stakeholders supporting the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill – thank you for enacting vital COVID-19 relief that continues to help families and communities recover from the pandemic. We ask you to build on those investments by supporting the President’s requests for historic funding increases for fiscal year (FY) 2022 and for new investments in these areas as part of the Build Back Better agenda. FY 2022 is the first chance after almost a decade under statutory discretionary spending caps for Congress to set total discretionary funding based on the nation’s needs and not on an arbitrary formula. We urge you to capitalize on this opportunity to increase the allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee by at least the amount necessary to accommodate the President’s requested funding increases.

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 over the last decade. The bill has lost more than \$20 billion in purchasing power over the last decade; it would take an allocation of \$204 billion just to return to the FY 2010 level in inflation-adjusted dollars. Even in years when non-defense discretionary funding increased, the Subcommittee’s allocation remained flat or received only a small share of the increase although it is the largest non-defense bill. As a result, the Labor-HHS-Education bill has received a declining share of all non-defense funding, leaving important services and activities underfunded by billions of dollars.

The COVID-19 emergency funding Congress enacted is helping to address the new costs and needs caused by the pandemic on a short-term basis. Congress must now use the FY 2022 Labor-HHS-Education bill, infrastructure legislation, and other investments to provide sustained funding to address long-standing needs that existed before the pandemic and that have been worsened by the resulting recession and disruption to income and activities. 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:

- Serving 1.5 million fewer low-income people through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in 2018 than in 2010, despite growing need, because funding was reduced from \$5.1 billion to \$3.7 billion over this period (and cut [38 percent](#) from FY 2010 to FY 2020, adjusted for inflation).

- Eroding the public health infrastructure and workforce, limiting our ability to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and monitor ongoing health trends for new and emerging threats.
- Hindering efforts to raise overall student achievement, close troubling achievement gaps, and 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 six eligible children, with child care providers paid too little.
- Hindering people's access to the skills, training, and education necessary to fill jobs at the backbone of our economy and businesses' efforts to fill the jobs of the 21st Century, especially for the more than 40% of workers who are unemployed who lack access to critical education and training after high school necessary to succeed in jobs created under Build Back Better and economic recovery plans.
- 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 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 active citizenship.
- Providing inadequate resources to deal with the substance use disorder crisis.
- 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 cut more than [20 percent](#) from FY 2010 to FY 2020.

Without a substantial increase in the Subcommittee's allocation, it will be impossible to support the President's request for new investments in important initiatives such as: public health emergency preparedness and infectious disease surveillance; targeting efforts to reduce maternal mortality rates among women of color; overcoming disruptions in learning disproportionately affecting students of color, with disabilities, and with low incomes; continuing to improve college affordability and completion; responding to the opioid epidemic; improving mental health services; and achieving the intended innovation of the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act.

We urge you to commit to improving the lives of Americans by significantly boosting the allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education bill for FY 2022 at least to match the President's request in order to provide needed services for the American public. 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);
- Katie Spiker, Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce (KatieS@nationalskillscoalition.org); or
- Deborah Weinstein, Coalition on Human Needs (dweinstein@chn.org).

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Addiction Connections Resource
Advance CTE
Advocates for Responsible Care (ARxC)
African American Health Alliance
Afterschool Alliance
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
Alabama Association of School Psychologists
Alabama CASE
Alaska Native Women's Resource Center
Alliance for Excellent Education
Alliance for Positive Change
Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs
Alliance of New York State YMCAs
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Alliance of Museums
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of University Professors (AAUP)
American Association on Health and Disability
American Brain Coalition
American College of Physicians
American Council on Education
American Educational Research Association
American Federation of School Administrators
American Federation of Teachers
American Heart Association
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
American Library Association
American Lung Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American School Counselor Association
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology

American Student Association of Community Colleges
Arkansas Association for Career and Technical Education`
Arkansas CASE
Arthritis Foundation
ASCD
Association for Career and Technical Education
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association for Psychological Science
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS)
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Population Centers
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of Young Americans (AYA)
Augustus F. Hawkins Foundation
Autism Society of America
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
AzCASE
AZCCBD
BellXcel
Boys Town
California Council of Administrators of Special Education
California Council on Teacher Education
CareerSource
CareerSource Pinellas
CAST
Center for Law and Education
Center for Learner Equity
Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR)
Child Welfare League of America
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
Children's Aid
Church World Service
Clarksville-Montgomery County School System
Coalition on Human Needs
Coker University



COALITION *for*
HEALTH FUNDING



Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)
Colorado Association for Career & Technical Education
Committee for Children
Committee for Education Funding
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
CoSN - Consortium For School Networking
Council for Economic Education
Council for Exceptional Children
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
CSTE
CT Association of School Psychologists
Drug Policy Alliance
Education Reform Now
EduColor
Employ Prince George's/Prince George's County Workforce Development Board
Endocrine Society
Equal Rights Advocates
Eta Sigma Gamma
Faith in Public Life Action Fund
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Florida CASE
Florida Workforce Development Association
Friends of the Institute of Education Sciences
Futures Without Violence
Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education
Girlstart
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
Green Dot Public Schools National
Health Care for America Now
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education
HIMSS
Hispanic Federation
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute
HIV Medicine Association
Hope and Help Center of Central Florida, Inc.
Human Rights Campaign
Idaho School Psychologist Association



COALITION *for*
HEALTH FUNDING



Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE)
Illinois School Psychologists Association
Indiana Council for Administrations of Special Education
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)
International Society for Technology in Education
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Jewish Women International
Jobs for the Future
Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators
Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE)
Knowledge Alliance
KYCASE
Lakeshore Foundation
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Learning Forward
Louisiana Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (LACTE)
MADSEC
Magnet Schools of America
March of Dimes
Mass Workforce Association
Maui Economic Opportunity
Meals on Wheels America
MENTOR
Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education
Michigan Association of Colleges of Teacher Education
Minnesota Administrators for Special Education
Missouri Budget Project
Missouri Council of Administrators of Special Education
Montana Council of Administrators of Special Education, MCASE
Muscular Dystrophy Association
NASTAD
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
National Association of Workforce Boards
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association for Music Education
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
National Association of Graduate-Professional Students
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of RSVP Directors
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)
National Center for Families Learning
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Coalition for Literacy
National Coalition of STD Directors
National College Attainment Network
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)
National Council for Mental Wellbeing
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council on Aging
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National PTA
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium
National Rural Education Association
National Skills Coalition
National Summer Learning Association
National Superintendents Roundtable
National Writing Project
National Youth Employment Coalition
Naugatuck YMCA
NC Council for Administrators of Special Education
Nebraska CASE
Nebraska School Psychologists Association
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
New Jersey Association of School Psychologists
New Jersey Association on Correction
New Leaders
New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals



COALITION *for*
HEALTH FUNDING



New York Council of Administrators of Special Education
NH Association of Special Education Administrators
NJ YMCA State Alliance
North Carolina Association of Workforce Development Boards (NCAWDB)
NYCASE
Ohio Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (OACTE)
Ohio Association of Pupil Services Administrators (OAPSA)
Oklahoma Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
Oklahoma Directors of Special Services
Oregon Alliance of YMCAs
Pa CASE
Parent Revolution
Parents as Teachers National Center
Partnership for America's Children
Peace Action
Physician Assistant Education Association
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Association of America
Presbyterian College
Prevent Blindness
ProLiteracy
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator
Public Justice Center
Purdue College of Education
Research!America
RESULTS DC/MD
Riverbrook Regional YMCA
Rogue Valley Family YMCA
Rural Schools Association of NYS
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
Safer Foundation
SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Neuroscience
Society of General Internal Medicine
South Carolina CASE
South Dakota CASE - SDCASE
SSDA
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
Stilwell Schools/ODSS
Teach For America



COALITION *for*
HEALTH FUNDING



Teach For America Baltimore
Teach For America Greater Chicago-Northwest Indiana
Teach For America Houston
Teach For America Las Vegas
Teach For America Los Angeles
Teach For America New Jersey
Teach For America Oklahoma City/Greater Tulsa
Teach For America Rio Grande Valley
Teach For America San Diego Region
Teach For America Washington
Teach For America-Delaware
Teach Plus
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children
Texas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education
The Advocacy Institute
The AIDS Institute
The Education Trust
The Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education (ASE)
The National Domestic Violence Hotline
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
TN Association of Career and Technical Education
Trust for America's Health
UC Berkeley
Union for Reform Judaism
United States Workforce Associations
University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources
University of California San Diego
University of California System
University of California, Davis
University of California, Santa Cruz
Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators (VCSEA)
Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education
Virginia Council of Administrators of Special Education
WACTE
Washington Council of Administrators of Special Education
West Virginia CASE
Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services
Wisconsin School Psychologists Association
Wisconsin Workforce Development Association
Women Employed



COALITION *for*
HEALTH FUNDING



World Education, Inc.
YMCA of Douglas County
YMCA of the USA
Young Invincibles

Cc: Chairs and Ranking Members, House and Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittees