

June 10, 2021

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

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:abernathy@cef.org));
- Erin Will Morton, Coalition for Health Funding ([emorton@dc-crd.com](mailto:emorton@dc-crd.com));
- Katie Spiker, Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce ([KatieS@nationalskillscoalition.org](mailto:KatieS@nationalskillscoalition.org)); or
- Deborah Weinstein, Coalition on Human Needs ([dweinstein@chn.org](mailto: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



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