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Education Funding

April 13, 2021

Dear Members of Congress:

We write on behalf of the more than 100 education organizations, institutions, and others that are members of the Committee for Education Funding (CEF) to urge you to support the historic increase in education investments in the President's fiscal year (FY) 2022 discretionary request. The \$102.8 billion requested for the Department of Education represents an important complement to the greatly appreciated COVID relief that Congress enacted to help students and families, schools, institutions of higher education, and other stakeholders along the education continuum respond to increased costs and needs caused by the pandemic. The FY 2022 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill provides Congress with the opportunity to make needed investments in ongoing and long-term education programs that have been underfunded for years, in large part because of the tight statutory caps on regular discretionary funding that will not exist for FY 2022.

Well before the pandemic hit there was a need for greater federal investments, and that need has only grown. The regular FY 2021 funding for education is more than \$7 billion below the level of a decade earlier in inflation-adjusted terms. Education needs and costs have grown over those ten years, and the President's request for a \$29.8 billion increase for the Department of Education programs, along with increases for education-related programs in other agencies, is the right response. This is the time to invest in programs that support teaching and access to education as students, educators, and other education-related staff return to in-person learning facing learning loss, new social and emotional needs, and a changed landscape of socially distanced classrooms, child care centers, and other services.

Investments in education are among the best that the government can make, reaping returns far beyond each student's educational achievement, yet the United States invests only about 2 percent of the regular federal budget on education. The President's larger investment would support a better educated workforce, leading to more research and innovation, economic growth, and better national security in many ways. A bigger federal education investment would help ensure access to high quality education from pre-school to higher education, fill gaps where local and state funding is insufficient or where new needs arise, and help with the costs of federally mandated educational services. CEF asks Congress to support the President's FY

1800 M Street NW, 500 South Tower, Washington, DC 20036
(202) 327-8125

www.cef.org Twitter and Instagram: @edfunding

2022 request to increase funding for the Department of Education by \$29.8 billion and for additional increases for other education-related programs.

CEF, the nation's oldest and largest education coalition, is a non-partisan and non-profit organization reflecting the education continuum. Our members are parents and students, teachers and school leaders, counselors, school board members, universities and school districts, associations, and others with the common goal of ensuring that education is adequately funded.

Sincerely,



Luis Maldonado
President



Sarah Abernathy
Executive Director