

May 10, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
U.S. Senate
Room S-128, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
U.S. Senate
Room S-128, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Blunt & Cole and Ranking Members Murray & DeLauro –

We write to urge you to fund Title II-A of the Every Student Succeeds Act at its current level of \$2.295 billion, without negatively impacting funding for other education programs. This program is essential to providing an effective education for each student across the nation, as it invests in the development of and support for the profession that delivers on that commitment.

In 2015, the Congress completed a remarkable bi-partisan reauthorization process and enacted the Every Student Succeeds Act. An essential aspect of that reauthorization was the acknowledgement that the states and the educator profession must be supported, as they are essential in ensuring a sound education for all students regardless of income or location. States face significant challenges as they implement the law, including addressing critical teacher shortages in high need fields such as STEM and special education; recruiting and preparing the next generation of educators in the face of declining enrollment in teacher preparation programs; improving retention of teachers instead of replacing those who depart early in their careers; ensuring the equitable distribution of effective and experienced teachers and addressing the woeful underrepresentation of teachers of color in the education profession. Title II-A is the support states need to address these challenges enabling them to invest in evidence-based strategies such as the development of career ladders that include teacher leadership opportunities, strengthening instructional capacity for the workforce and innovative teacher and leader residency programs and in many cases, help school districts ensure that classrooms have teachers.

States are in the process of finalizing their plans on how they will use Title-II funds. They have gathered stakeholders from around their states – teachers, paraprofessionals, parents, local school officials, principals, specialized instructional support personnel, teacher educators, advocates and others – and

received input about how they can best address the unique challenges in their state using the flexibility of ESSA funding. The Department of Education will soon be reviewing those plans and states will be taking action to invest in the students and schools in their jurisdictions.

In his FY 2018 Budget Request, President Trump requested the elimination of funds for Title II-A. Such an elimination would leave states in a position of being unable to implement the new law and unable to effectively meet the needs of the students and the communities they serve. A strong federal investment upholds your commitment to states, to students and families, to local school districts and to teachers and school leaders. We urge you to lift the budget caps on non-defense discretionary spending set forth in the Budget Control Act so that you can continue to fund Title II-A at the \$2.295 billion level, without negatively impacting funding for other education programs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to working with you moving forward on education funding.

Sincerely,

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AASA: The School Superintendents Association

Afterschool Alliance

Alabama Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (ALACTE)

Alliance for Educational Justice (AEJ)

Alliance for Excellent Education

Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools (AROS)

American Art Therapy Association

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)

American Council for School Social Work

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)

American Psychological Association

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

ASCD

Association of Educational Service Agencies

Association of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges for Teacher Education (AILACTE)

Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS)

Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE)

Association of Teacher Educators - Arkansas

Association of Teacher Educators - Kansas

Association of Teacher Educators - Virginia

Association of Teacher Educators (ATE)

Benjamin Banneker Association

California Council on Teacher Education

Californians Together

Center for American Progress

Center for Popular Democracy

Coalition for Community Schools
Code.org
Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)
Committee for Children
Computer Science Teachers Association
Connecticut Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU)
Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
Council of Academic Deans from Research Education Institutions (CADREI)
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
Dual Language Education of New Mexico
Educators for Excellence
EL Education
Faith Organizing Alliance
Florida Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (FACTE)
Gamaliel Network
Georgia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (GACTE)
Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition NYC
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education (HECSE)
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)
Hispanic Federation
Holy Temple Holiness Church of Deliverance, Inc.
Hope Street Group
Illinois Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (IACTE)
Illinois Association of Deans of Public Colleges of Education
Indiana Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (IACTE)
Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
International Literacy Association
International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA)
I-STEM Resource Network
Joint National Committee for Languages
José Martí Foundation
Journey for Justice Alliance (J4J)
Justice for All
Kansas Council for the Social Studies
Kappa Delta Pi
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
League of United Latin American Citizens
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Learning Forward
Maine Council for the Social Studies
Massachusetts Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE)
Michigan Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE)
Missouri Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE)
Missouri Council for the Social Studies
NAACP

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)
National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE)
National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP)
National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs
National Association of Holmes Scholars Alumni
National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)
National Board Council of New York Network
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD)
National Center for Teacher Residencies (NCTR)
National Council for the Social Studies
National Council of Teachers of English
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Disability Rights Network
National Education Association (NEA)
National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform
National Institute for Excellence in Teaching
National Network of State Teachers of the Year
National PTA
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium
National Rural Education Association
National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)
National Urban League
National Writing Project
New Jersey Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (NJACTE)
New Leaders
New Teacher Center
New York Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
New York State Association of Teacher Educators
North Dakota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (NDACTE)
Oklahoma Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (OACTE)
Oregon Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (OACTE)
Oregon Council for the Social Studies
Partnership for the Future of Learning
PDK Chapter 12
Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators (PAC-TE)
Public Advocacy for Kids
Rural School and Community Trust
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference
School Social Work Association of America
Schott Foundation for Public Education
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sound Vision Foundation

South Carolina Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (SCACTE)
Southern Education Foundation
STEM Education Coalition
TASH
Teach For America
Teacher Education Council of State Colleges and Universities (TECSCU)
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children
Teaching for Change
Teaching Matters
TESOL International Association
Texas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
The Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture (INPEACE)
UTeach STEM Educators Association (USEA)
Virginia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (VACTE)
Washington Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (WACTE)
Wisconsin Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (WACTE)