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July 24, 2019

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Committee for Education Funding

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the more than 100 education organizations and institutions that are members of the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), we urge you to support H.R. 3877, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, which will prevent devastating cuts to education by raising the caps on non-defense discretionary funding for fiscal years (FY) 2020 and 2021. Enactment of this bipartisan deal will prevent a fiscal and economic crisis over the debt ceiling and will allow Congress to proceed toward enacting FY 2020 appropriations bills in a timely manner.

CEF supported the even higher non-defense spending level the House approved earlier this year for FY 2020 that led to record education funding in the House-passed Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, H.R. 2740. While the non-defense funding in the compromise bipartisan deal is lower than the House-passed levels, it will make it possible for Congress to increase investments in education and other core responsibilities of government where the need is growing, but funding has been stagnant or cut in recent years. Education investments account for less than two percent of the federal budget, and current funding for Department of Education programs is still \$7 billion below the 2011 level in inflation-adjusted terms.

Absent action to raise the caps, non-defense discretionary funding will be cut by \$54 billion for next year. The possible impact of that cut was illustrated in the President's FY 2020 budget, which cut Department of Education funding by \$10.7 billion (15.1 percent), imposing drastic cuts to critical programs along the education continuum that would hurt America's students, educators, and our economy.

CEF, the nation's oldest and largest education coalition, is a non-partisan and non-profit organization reflecting the entire education continuum, from early childhood education through elementary and secondary education to higher education, career technical and adult education, and out-of-school education

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needs and enhancements. Our members are teachers and school leaders, parents and students, counselors, school board members, universities and school districts, associations and others with the common goal of ensuring that education is adequately funded.

We urge you to support H.R. 3877 to raise the caps for FY 2020 and FY 2021, ending the austerity-level discretionary sequester and allowing for needed investments in education and other important programs.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Stephanie Giesecke and Sheryl Cohen. The signature of Stephanie Giesecke is on the left, and the signature of Sheryl Cohen is on the right.

Stephanie Giesecke
President

Sheryl Cohen
Executive Director