

April 16, 2020

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

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

The Honorable Nita Lowey
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 371 undersigned organizations – representing the full range of stakeholders supporting the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill (Labor-HHS) – thank you for increasing investments in these important programs for fiscal year (FY) 2020 and urge you to significantly boost the FY 2021 allocations to address vital and on-going needs. 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 almost \$16 billion in purchasing power over the last decade; it would take an allocation of \$199 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 even though it is the largest non-defense bill. Most recently, for FY 2020 the bill received just a 2.8 percent increase in funding when overall non-defense discretionary funding increased by 4.1 percent, leaving important services and activities underfunded by billions of dollars.

We recognize the constraints posed by the tight cap on non-defense discretionary spending but urge you to keep in mind the importance of funding the long-standing needs addressed by the Labor-HHS-Education bill. Its programs strengthen the nation by improving Americans' lives and meeting basic needs for a broad range of constituencies. The effects of chronic underfunding has 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 public health crises and monitor 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.
- Hindering efforts of our local employers to fill the approximately six million open jobs in the U.S. because too many workers lack the necessary postsecondary education and credentials to fill these positions.
- Preventing almost one million citizens from accessing the critical workforce and job training services that Congress overwhelmingly authorized in 2014. Funds for adult and youth training under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act were cut by more than [17 percent](#) over the past decade, and the YouthBuild program was cut by 23 percent.
- 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.
- 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 virtually impossible to meaningfully expand investments in important initiatives such as public health emergency preparedness and infectious disease surveillance, supporting the Every Student Succeeds Act, continuing to improve college affordability and completion, or achieving the intended innovation of the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act.

We are appreciative of Congress's recent additional funding for Labor-HHS agencies and programs to support efforts to combat COVID-19 and acknowledge that supplemental funding is an important down-payment towards meeting immediate needs. However, we believe that the long-term impact of COVID-19 and the outcomes of future pandemics will be catastrophic if we do not provide robust investments through annual appropriations. Therefore, we urge you to commit to improving the lives of Americans by significantly boosting the allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education bill for FY 2021 to support needed services for the American public.

If you have questions about this letter, please contact:

- Sheryl Cohen, Committee for Education Funding (cohen@cef.org)
- Angela Ostrom, Coalition for Health Funding (aostrom@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,

A World Fit For Kids!
AASA, The School Superintendents Association
ADAP Advocacy Association
Addiction Connections Resource
Advance CTE



Advocates for Children of New York
Affordable Homeownership Foundation, Inc.
Afterschool Alliance
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Alliance for Retired Americans
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Alliance of Museums
American Association for Dental Research
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Council for School Social Work
American Council on Education
American Dance Therapy Association
American Diabetes Association
American Educational Research Association
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Federation of Teachers
American Heart Association
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Library Association
American Medical Student Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Muslim Health Professionals
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Physiological Society
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American School Counselor Association
American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
AnitaB.org
Apple Valley Adult Education School
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
Arkansas WAND
Association for Career and Technical Education
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association for Psychological Science
Association of academic health sciences libraries
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Association of Assistive Technology Act Program
Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities



Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)
Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Autism Society of America
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Bayard Rustin Liberation Initiative
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore
Beyond Hunger
Bhutanese Community Association Of Pittsburgh
Blue Ridge Independent Living Center
Books, Brushes and Bands for Education
Boston University
Bread for the World
Breaktime Cafe, Inc.
Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition
California Association of Food Banks
California Center For Rural Policy
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY (CINDY)
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Child Care Services Association
Child Care Solutions, Inc.
Child Welfare League of America
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Children's Advocacy Alliance
Children's Advocacy Institute
Children's Aid
Children's Defense Fund
Children's HealthWatch
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Citizen Schools
City Year Inc.
Coalition for Disability Health Equity
Coalition for Health Funding
Coalition for Low Income Pennsylvanians
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations
Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE)
Coalition On Human Needs



COALITION *for*
HEALTH FUNDING



College Possible
Colorado Society of School Psychologists
Committee for Children
Committee for Education Funding
Community Access National Network (CANN)
Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley
Community Action Partnership NJ, Inc.
Community Action Partnership of OC
Community Coalition on Homelessness dba Turning Points
Community Development Authority
Compass Affordable Housing
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Consortium for School Networking
Cooperative Education Service Agency 3
Council for Exceptional Children
Council for Exceptional Children--Division for Research
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
Criminalization of Poverty Project of the Institute for Policy Studies
Cypress Healthcare
Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul USA
Democrats for Education Reform
Disabled in Action of Greater Syracuse Inc.
District 4 Human Resources Development Council
Dominican Sisters Ministry of Presence
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
Easterseals
EDGE Consulting Partners
EDIGuys, LLC
Education Reform Now
Education Reform Now Advocacy
Employment & Employer Services (E&ES)
EnAct, Inc.
End Hunger Connecticut!
Endocrine Society
Epilepsy Foundation
Equality California
Equality North Carolina
Every Child Matters
Familias en Acción
Family Connection of SC
Family Enrichment Network, Inc.
Family Equality
Family Network on Disabilities
Family SOUP



COALITION *for*
HEALTH FUNDING



Family Voices
Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
FL Alliance of Community Development Corporations, Inc.
Florida Association of School Psychologists
Food Lifeline
Foundation for Healthy Generations
FPWA
Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement
Friends of the Institute of Education Sciences
Frontier Behavioral health
Futures Without Violence
Green Earth Goods
Habitat for Humanity of Tompkins and Cortland Counties
Harvard University
Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists
Health Over Profit for Everyone (HOPE)
Healthy Teen Network
HEAR US Inc.
Heartland Alliance
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hepatitis B United
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education
Highlands United Presbyterian
Hispanic Federation
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute
Idaho School Psychologist Association
IHM Sisters, Immaculata
Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling
Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness
Illinois-Iowa Center for Independent Living
Indiana Association for College Admission Counseling
Indiana Association of School Psychologists
Indivisible
Inspirational Gospel Assembly
Institute for Educational Leadership
Iowa School Psychologists Association
Jefferson County Food Policy Council
Jesuit Social Research Institute, Loyola University New Orleans
Just Harvest, A Center for Action Against Hunger
Justice for Migrant Women
Kings Local Food Pantry
Knowledge Alliance
League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County
Learning Disabilities Association of America
LGBTQ Allyship
Lincoln IU12



Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
Louisiana School Psychological Association
Lucerne Valley Adult School
Magnet Schools of America
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
March of Dimes
Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc.
Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA)
Maui Economic Opportunity
Meals on Wheels America
Medical library association
Mellen School District
Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling
Mid-to-Low LOT Schools Association, Sub Group of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
Minnesota School Psychology Association
Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative
Missouri Association for Colleges Admission Counseling (MOACAC)
Missouri Association of School Psychologists
MomsRising
Mountainland Head Start, Inc.
NASTAD
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Association ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA)
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)
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 Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Association of RSVP Directors
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of Social Workers Connecticut Chapter
National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)
National Center for Families Learning
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National CMV Foundation, Inc.



National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients
National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
National Consumers League
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)
National Council of Jewish Women; WA State Policy Advocate
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
National Council on Aging
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Employment Lawyers Association
National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform
National Juvenile Justice Network
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National NeighborWorks Association
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
National PTA
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium
National Rural Education Association
National Senior Corps Association
National Skill Coalition
National Working Positive Coalition
National Writing Project
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Nevada Association of School Psychologists
New Bedford Coalition to Save Our Schools
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
New Jersey Association on Correction
New Jersey Reentry Corporation
New Progressive Alliance
New York Association of School Psychologists
New York State Association for College Admission Counseling
Ni-Ta-Nee NOW (Centre County PA)
North Carolina AIDS Action Network
North Dakota Economic Security and Prosperity Alliance
NORTHCENTRAL ARKANSAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (NADC), INC.
OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth



COALITION *for*
HEALTH FUNDING



Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice
Ohio School Psychologists Association
Opportunity Youth United
Oregon Women's Rights Coalition
Pacific Northwest Association for College Admission Counseling
Parents as Teachers
PathPoint
PathWays PA
Pax Christi - Beverly, MA
PCACAC
Peace and Justice Team of the Congregation of Saint Joseph
PEAK Parent Center
PEATC
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Physician Assistant Education Association
Placer Independent Resource Services
Population Association of America
Prevent Blindness
Prevent Blindness Georgia
Prevent Blindness Wisconsin
Prevention Institute
Pride at Work
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians)
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Reading Partners
Redstone Center for Prevention and Wellness
RESULTS
RESULTS DC
RESULTS Miami
Ridgelines, INC
Rocky Mountain Association for College Admissions Counseling
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
Save the Family
Schwoeppe Dairy LLC
Silver State Equality-Nevada
Sisters of Charity Federation
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of Charity of New York
Sisters of Charity, BVM
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Research in Child Development
South Asian Fund For Education, Scholarship and Training (SAFEST)
Southern Association of College Admission Counseling
Susan G. Komen
Swipe Out Hunger
Teach For America



COALITION *for*
HEALTH FUNDING



Tennessee Association of School Psychologists
Texas Association for College Admission Counseling
The 99% Pennsylvania
The Advocacy Institute
The AIDS Institute
The Arc of the United States
The Education Trust
The Forum for Youth Investment
The Jewish Federations of North America
The Journey
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The Parents' Place of MD
Tourette Association of America
Treatment Action Group
Trust for America's Health
Ujima, Inc: The National Center on Violence Against Women
UNCF
Union for Reform Judaism
United Way of King County
United Way of Pierce County
United Way Worldwide
Utah Association of School Psychologists
Utahns Against Hunger
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition
Virginia Academy of School Psychologists
Voices for National Service
Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP
Washington State Association of School Psychologists
We All Rise
West Central Initiative
West Virginia School Psychologists Association
Westchester County Psychological Association
Western Association of College Admission Counseling
Windham Area Interfaith Ministry
Worker Justice Wisconsin
World Education
Xenia Area FISH Food Pantry
YMCA of the USA

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