

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
The Capitol, S-230  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
The Capitol, H-232  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. Senate  
The Capitol, S-221  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
The Capitol, H-204  
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 28, 2017

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, and Democratic Leaders Schumer and Pelosi:

Our organizations are deeply concerned about our nation's commitment to the education of its young people. We urge you to ensure an adequate funding level for education moving forward and to facilitate that investment by raising the budget caps on federal spending that are currently in place.

Federal education funding is an investment in the future of our nation. Our economic strength and vitality are dependent upon having a citizenry that is fully participating in our economy. Education is the path for each child to become a contributing member of our society.

In 2015, when Congress passed the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act, it recognized that the foundation each child needs to achieve the American dream is education. The current cuts to education are in direct conflict with the commitment Congress has made to our nation's youth, their teachers, parents, classified school employees and principals, and our world-renowned higher education system. In addition, as state budgets continue to be tightened—with 23 states being forced to make midyear cuts last year—states increasingly depend on Congress to stay committed to investing in elementary, secondary, postsecondary, and adult education.

We urge you to come together and craft a budget deal that raises both the defense and non-defense discretionary caps by the same dollar amount. Education programs, as well as other services that support the most vulnerable here at home, need to be at least level-funded at the Fiscal Year 2017 levels, and preferably higher.

In addition, we urge you to ensure that the additional funds from a budget deal are appropriately distributed. In particular, please work to ensure that the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill receives its proportional share—about one third—of any increase in non-defense discretionary funding.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical matter.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association

Afterschool Alliance  
Alliance for Excellent Education  
American Association for Employment in Education  
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
American Association of University Women  
American Dance Therapy Association  
American Federation of School Administrators  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Foundation for the Blind  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Psychological Association  
Association of Educational Service Agencies  
Association of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges for Teacher Education  
Association of School Business Officials International  
Association of Teacher Educators  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Autism Society of America  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Benjamin Banneker Association, Inc.  
Center for American Progress  
Code.org  
Collaborative for Academic and Social and Emotional Learning  
Committee for Children  
Committee for Education Funding  
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities  
Council for Exceptional Children  
Council of Academic Deans from Research Education Institutions  
Council of Administrators in Special Education  
Democrats for Education Reform  
Generation Progress  
GLSEN  
Higher Ed, Not Debt!  
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
International Literacy Association  
Joint National Committee for Languages  
Kappa Delta Pi  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Learning Forward  
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association for Bilingual Education  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement  
National Association for Music Education  
National Association for the Education of Young Children  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of Secondary School Principals

National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State Directors of Special Education  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools  
National Center for Youth Law  
National Council for Languages and International Studies  
National Council for the Social Studies  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of State Directors of Adult Education  
National Council of Teachers of English  
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Education Association  
National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform  
National Indian Education Association  
National PTA  
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium  
National Rural Education Association  
National Science Teachers Association  
National Title I Association  
National Writing Project  
New Leaders  
New Teacher Center  
Partnership for America's Children  
Public Advocacy for Kids  
Rural School and Community Trust  
School Social Work Association of America  
Teach for America  
Teacher Education Council of State Colleges and Universities  
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children  
Teaching Matters  
TESOL International Association  
The Arc of the United States