



COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

July 6, 2023

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Dear Appropriations Committee leaders:

We write on behalf of the more than 100 education organizations and institutions that are members of the [Committee for Education Funding \(CEF\)](#) to emphasize the importance of investments in education, and to express our concern that both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have adopted allocations that dramatically cut funding for the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill for fiscal year (FY) 2024. We recognize that the Fiscal Responsibility Act imposes tight discretionary spending constraints, and encourage you to use all possible funding sources and mechanisms to increase or at least maintain federal education investments.

The Budget Control Act of 2011 similarly cut and capped appropriations, resulting in years of education spending cuts that hurt students, families, and the economy. As a result of that Act's caps on non-defense discretionary funding, Department of Education funding remained below the FY 2011 level for the next six years, and FY 2023 funding is still \$13 billion below the FY 2011 level in inflation-adjusted dollars. However, the need for investments in education is only growing, and [recent polling](#) shows that the majority of the public thinks that the government spends too little on education. It is vital that FY 2024 education funding be sufficient to address needs along the education continuum, covering early education through elementary and secondary education, higher education, adult education, workforce development, and out of school educational services.

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, specialized instructional support personnel, school board members, universities and school districts, and associations working to ensure that education is adequately funded.

Sincerely,

Jenny Smulson
President

Sarah Abernathy
Executive Director

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