



## COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

July 8, 2024

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Funding

Dear Representative:

We write on behalf of the more than 110 education organizations and institutions that are members of the [Committee for Education Funding \(CEF\)](#) to **strongly oppose the harmful education funding cuts in the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill approved by the Appropriations Subcommittee on June 27, and to urge you to vote against the bill unless the funding is restored.** To adequately invest in education, in families, and communities, we also urge Congress to increase non-defense discretionary funding for FY 2025 by at least 1 percent above the FY 2024 level, as was the intention when Congress approved the Fiscal Responsibility Act last year.

This FY 2025 Labor-HHS-Education bill cuts Department of Education funding by more than \$11 billion (14 percent), to a level below what Congress provided 14 years ago for FY 2011. The bill also cuts education-related programs in other agencies, eliminating entire programs that provide vital services to children, youth, and adults. These devastating funding cuts will impact teaching and learning along the education continuum, hitting early education, elementary and secondary education, higher education, job training, and out-of-school educational services.

The bill's damaging funding cuts will hit education services immediately by rescinding more than \$1 billion that Congress enacted just months ago for the academic year starting next month. Eliminating this advance funding will immediately require laying off teachers and staff and reducing planned investments in other student supports.

The bill also deeply cuts the amount of new funding, hitting all parts of the Education budget. For example, it cuts the Department's largest K-12 education program by 25 percent (\$4.7 billion), eliminating vital support for 25 million students in nearly 90 percent of the nation's school districts. It cuts in half support for two of the largest student aid programs, including one where low-income students work part time and colleges help pay their wages. The bill eliminates support for almost all teacher training programs even though the nation faces [ongoing shortages](#) in the educator workforce. The bill reduces funding for many other programs that are truly investments in students, families, and communities.

The nation saw what happened to student achievement and access to high quality education after the Budget Control Act of 2011 imposed arbitrary and low spending

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caps for almost a decade; funding for Department of Education programs was cut and then held mostly flat, and it was cut again for FY 2024 under the new cap on non-defense funding. Education funding is now \$16.6 billion below the 2011 level in inflation-adjusted terms. This bill will further jeopardize access to necessary education services for another generation of students.

CEF urges House members to reject this bill and insist that the FY 2025 Labor-HHS-Education funding bill increase or at least maintain federal education investments. [Recent polling](#) shows that the majority of the public opposes cutting funding for education and child care and supports increasing this vital support. This bill's deep funding cuts are a shift in the wrong direction, abandoning students and harming the economy.

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.



Emily Crawford  
President

Sincerely,



Sarah Abernathy  
Executive Director