



November 14, 2023

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515



Dear Representatives,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing school superintendents, transportation providers, rural educators, school business officials and educational service agency administrators, we write to express our strong opposition to the destructive education funding cuts in [H.R. 5894](#), the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill pending in the House Rules Committee, and urge you to vote against the bill unless the funding is restored. The bill's draconian cuts total \$22 billion and reflect a 28% cut to the U.S. Education Department. It reverts funding levels back to 2006, meaning federal support for our nation's high school seniors would be less than what was available not only when they were in kindergarten (2011-12), but the year they were born. The cuts are far-reaching and will impact teaching and learning across the full educational spectrum, affecting early education, elementary and secondary education, higher education, job training and out-of-school educational services and programming. The cuts come at a time when students are struggling to recover from the COVID pandemic and will leave a wake of damage in their path, harming students, educators, families, and the country as a whole.

As the national professional organizations representing school superintendents, educational service agency administrators, rural educators, and district leaders who run the school systems, we have a responsibility to advocate for adequate and equitable federal investment. This budget misses both marks and appears intent on damage to—rather than support for and investment in—our nation's schools and the students they serve.

The proposed cuts will impact schools across the country by erasing funding that supports educators critical to student learning and recovery. Under this proposal, 224,000 teachers nationwide could be removed from classrooms serving low-income students due to cuts to Title I. Additional cuts outside of Title I will undermine—if not completely derail—programs and efforts that help keep class sizes down; that support after-school programs; and that help develop our teacher workforce – investments that are now more critical than ever as the nation faces a severe teacher shortage. This bill is a continuation of failed policy that assumes school systems have an unending ability to make do with less, or that state and local coffers can readily offset these cuts.

Congress has made strides in federal education policy reauthorizations in recent years and stands to consider other programs this term. Strong authorizing language is only one-half of the work: Congress must invest in the programs it creates and supports, to ensure that state and local education agencies and broader stakeholders are able to successfully bring the federal program to life.

We are as steadfast in our support for public education as we are in our staunch opposition to this deeply damaging appropriations proposal. **We ask that every member of Congress vote NO on this short-sighted and destructive piece of legislation** and act, instead, to find compromise and fully fund the programs that millions of students, educators, families and communities in every state rely on every day. (Continued on next page.)

Sincerely,

David R. Schuler  
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AASA, The School Superintendents Association

Joan Wade, Ph.D.  
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