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June 17, 2019

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Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the 110 organizations and institutions that are members of the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), **we urge you to vote for H.R. 2740, the omnibus appropriations bill that increases education funding for fiscal year (FY) 2020.** The increases will support vital improvements to teaching and learning along the education continuum, including early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, career technical and adult education, higher education, and other educational services outside of classrooms such as libraries and museums.

The federal government has underinvested in education in recent years, constrained by tight caps on non-defense discretionary funding. Those budget limitations led to cuts in funding for the Department of Education, where funding remained below the FY 2011 level for six years and is still \$7 billion below the FY 2011 level in inflation-adjusted terms. Even though Congress has voted to raise the caps since their onset, the reality of federal investment in education remains one of chronic underinvestment that has left many programs insufficiently funded to fulfill their intended goals and meet student standards. Given past funding limitations, even the increases proposed for some of these programs for FY 2020 might not meet demand or support the needs of a 21st century economy.

CEF continues to request Congress to move quickly to enact an increase in the non-defense discretionary cap for FY 2020 that is at least the level set in H.R. 2021 and that was assumed in the appropriations levels approved by the House this Spring.

CEF, the nation's oldest and largest education coalition, is a non-partisan organization reflecting the entire education continuum. Our members are teachers and school leaders, parents and students, counselors, school board members, universities and school districts, associations and others who share the common goal of ensuring that education is adequately funded.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Giesecke
President

Sheryl Cohen
Executive Director

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