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Joel Packer, Executive Director
Committee for Education Funding

October 28, 2015

Dear Representative:

The Committee for Education Funding (CEF), a coalition of 122 national education associations and institutions spanning early learning to postgraduate education, **writes to express our support for the Bipartisan Budget Agreement (BBA) of 2015.**

This bill will eliminate most of the harmful sequester spending caps for nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 and FY 2017, thereby providing room for critically important investments in education programs through appropriations.

The BBA raises the cap on NDD by \$25 billion in FY 2016 and \$15 billion in FY 2017, while also providing roughly \$8 billion in each of those years for NDD spending through the Overseas Contingency Operation (OCO) fund. It provides the same increases for defense programs, maintaining the parity principle between NDD and defense that was incorporated in the Budget Control Act and the 2013 Bipartisan Budget Act.

Under the current sequester spending cap for NDD, the House Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill cuts funding for education programs by \$2.8 billion. Passage of the BBA will hopefully result in the restoration of those cuts, while also providing sufficient room for increases in a broad range of programs at all levels of education including early learning, elementary and secondary, career and technical education and postsecondary education.

Education programs have already suffered through multiple rounds of cuts since FY 2010, resulting in current aggregate discretionary funding (exclusive of Pell grants) for the Department of Education below the FY 2008 level, prior to adjusting for inflation.

Passage of the BBA will turn the corner from harmful austerity to much needed investments in our schools and students which will help grow the economy, create jobs, and improve our nation's competitiveness and innovation.

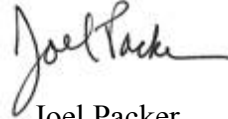
1341 G Street, NW, Fifth Floor, Washington, DC 20036
Phone (202) 383-0083 Fax (202) 463-4803
www.cef.org; www.twitter.com/edfunding

We urge you to vote for passage of the Bipartisan Budget Agreement of 2015.

Sincerely,



Noelle Ellerson
President



Joel Packer
Executive Director