



May 20, 2013

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Dear House Appropriations Committee Member:

The Committee for Education Funding (CEF), a coalition of 107 national education associations and institutions representing birth to postgraduate education, **strongly urges you to vote against the proposed 302(b) allocations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014. In particular we strongly oppose the proposed allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee.** The proposed allocation is 18.6 percent below the final FY 2013 sequester level and 22.2 percent below the FY 13 pre-sequester Continuing Resolution (CR) level.

An FY 2014 Labor-HHS-Education bill at this level would be devastating for students, schools, colleges, states, libraries and museums, and completely dwarf the negative impact of the current sequestration cuts. Indeed, the cuts required by the proposed allocations may well result in the most destructive consequences for education of any bill ever considered by Congress.

Unless and until the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee and then the full Committee mark up an FY 2014 bill, we won't know the exact funding levels for each program. However, based on an assumption that all programs would be cut by the same percentage as the overall bill total, overall funding for the Department of Education would be cut by \$12.2 billion, moving federal support for education ten years backward to below the FY 2004 level.

Here are just a few examples of what an 18.6% cut means:

- Title I Grants to LEAs = -\$2.56 billion
- Impact aid = -\$228 million
- 21st century community learning centers = -\$203 million
- Teacher quality State grants = -\$435 million
- IDEA State grants = -\$2.04 billion
- Career and technical education State grants = -\$198 million
- Pell grants = -\$4.24 billion
- SEOG = -\$129 million
- College Work-study = -\$172 million
- TRIO = -\$148 million
- Head Start (in HHS) = -\$1.42 billion

Education programs have already been cut multiple times in the past two and a half years. The FY 2011 CR cut education programs (exclusive of changes to Pell grants) by

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an aggregate \$1.25 billion with more than three dozen education programs eliminated and another four dozen cut. The FY 2012 omnibus appropriations bill cut Education Department funding by another \$233 million.

While the previous Congress maintained the \$5,550 maximum Pell grant, it paid for increased Pell costs by limiting interest subsidies for federal student loans and curtailing eligibility for Pell grants. In fact, college students have contributed \$4.6 billion out of their pockets to deficit reduction.

The final FY 2013 CR, after both the 0.2 percent across-the board cut and then the 5 percent sequester cuts, slashed another \$2.4 billion from education programs. These waves of cuts have come at a time when enrollments have increased at both the K-12 and higher education levels and states, schools, students and colleges have endured deep state and local budget cuts.

Enough is enough! It's time for Congress to reject these draconian cuts and replace the sequester with a balanced package of deficit reduction. Solving our nation's fiscal situation and reducing the debt can't and won't happen simply by slashing education and other nondefense discretionary spending.

Instead of making it more difficult to improve overall student achievement, close achievement gaps, and increase high school graduation and college access and completion rates by enacting these drastic cuts, Congress should be investing in our future through education. The need to increase the federal investment in education has never been greater. Jobs and the economy are directly linked to such investments. Both unemployment rates and lifetime earnings are based on levels of education attainment.

In addition, the American public is strongly opposed to cutting federal support for education:

- A [national survey](#) by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press found that cuts in federal education spending are particularly unpopular. Only 10 percent of the public supports decreasing funding for education programs, while 60 percent wants to increase spending.
- A Bloomberg News [poll](#) found that 67 percent of the public believes education funding should not be cut at all by the sequester.
- A CEF/Foundation for Education Investment poll in December 2012 also found that two-thirds of the public supported protecting education from the sequester cuts and 86 percent agreed that education investments are important to our future economic growth.

We urge you to reject the proposed 302(b) allocations. However, if they are approved we urge that the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee and the full Committee promptly mark up the FY 2014 bill so that the American public can see the exact impact of the allocation on programs affecting children and education.

Sincerely,



Myrna Mandlawitz
President



Joel Packer
Executive Director