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AND THE WORKFORCE

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March 24, 2016

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rose DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Cole and Ranking Members Lowey and DeLauro:

As you begin writing the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY 2017) Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations (L-HHS-ED) bill, we ask for your support in ensuring the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) is implemented and funded with adherence to the structure included in the statute. The law's reforms will give states and school districts the opportunity to provide every child in every school an excellent education. In order to achieve this goal, the FY 2017 L-HHS-ED appropriations bill must prioritize funding of programs authorized by ESSA before any new proposals are considered and ensure faithful implementation of the law.

On December 10, 2015, the President signed ESSA into law after the bill passed Congress with overwhelming majorities in both chambers. Since ESSA's enactment, the Department of Education has begun to implement the law, with states and local school districts planning for the transition away from *No Child Left Behind*. It is important the Appropriations Committee supports this ongoing work by funding elementary and secondary education programs consistent with the letter and intent of ESSA.

In particular, the FY 2017 L-HHS-ED appropriations bill must prioritize funding for the Education for the Disadvantaged program (Title I-A) and Title IV-A (the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants, or SSAEG), and support the successful transition of the

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Preschool Development Grants (PDG) to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as required under the statute. For Title I-A, we request funding at least equal to the combined amount allocated to Title I-A and the School Improvement Grant program in FY 2016, plus 0.649 percent, consistent with the percentage increase for FY2017 authorized in ESSA. For the SSAEG, ESSA authorizes \$1.65 billion in FY 2017, and it uses a need-based formula to allocate funding to states, and within states to school districts. We urge the appropriators to allocate at least the full \$1.65 billion for this program to allow for adequate formula distribution to states and to school districts consistent with the statute. Finally, ESSA authorizes funds in FY 2017 for HHS for the PDG. We urge the appropriators to support the program transition provisions as written.

The FY 2017 L-HHS-ED appropriations bill will establish the precedent for ESSA funding and implementation. We strongly urge you to fund the law as enacted.

Thank you for your support and continued commitment to ensure faithful and timely implementation of ESSA. We stand ready to work with you in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,



JOHN KLINE
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce