

April XX, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Vice Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The #### undersigned organizations—representing the full range of stakeholders in the programs of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education and related agencies—urge you to restore the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 302(b) allocation for the Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee to at least the FY 2010 level of \$163.6 billion.

The programs and services administered by these Departments and agencies serve a broad range of constituencies and needs, but they all share a common, fundamental goal of strengthening this nation by improving Americans' lives. Despite their profound impact on American health, child development, educational and skills attainment, and productivity, these programs and services have been cut by 12 percent (\$21 billion) since FY 2010, adjusted for inflation. In real terms, FY 2015 is at its second lowest level since FY 2001—the only lower year being FY 2013 when sequestration's across-the-board cuts took effect. These cuts are:

- Slowing scientific discovery in basic, biomedical, and health services research that prevents disease, improves health and curbs medical costs.
- Eroding the public health infrastructure and workforce, limiting our ability to respond to public health crises and monitor health trends for new and emerging threats.
- Hindering efforts to close troubling achievement gaps, raise overall student achievement, and increase high school graduation, college access and completion rates.
- Leaving far too many low-income children without access to high quality preschool and other early learning opportunities.
- Hindering efforts of our local employers to fill the approximately five million jobs in the U.S. because too many workers lack the necessary postsecondary education and credentials to fill these positions.
- Preventing almost one million citizens from accessing the critical workforce and job training services that Congress overwhelmingly authorized last year.

Without an increase in the 302(b) allocation, it will be virtually impossible to fund important new initiatives—such as combating antibiotic resistance and the opioid epidemic—or invest in proven programs—such as moving the federal share of funding for IDEA special education closer to the promised level of 40 percent, and providing resources to meet the health, safety and quality requirements established by the recent bipartisan Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) reauthorization—without deep cuts in other equally important initiatives.

We urge you to recognize the value of health, education, child development, social services, and job training and workforce development in improving the lives of American families and to restore the Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee 302(b) allocation to at least the FY 2010 level of \$163.6 billion. Even if funding is returned to \$163.6 billion, that amount will have considerably less purchasing power than in FY 2010 after six years of inflation, population growth, and other rising costs.

If you have questions about this letter, please contact:

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Joel Packer, Committee for Education Funding (202-383-0083 or [JPacker@cef.org](mailto:JPacker@cef.org)); or  
Bridget Brown, Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce (202-589-1790 or [bridget@nawdp.org](mailto:bridget@nawdp.org)).

Sincerely,

Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce  
Coalition for Health Funding  
Committee for Education Funding

Cc: Members, Senate and House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittees

DRAFT