



July 14, 2017

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

We are writing on behalf of more than [800 health, research, education, child development, aging, social services, and workforce development organizations](#) regarding the fiscal year (FY) 2018 302(b) allocation for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations (Labor-HHS-ED) bill. As is made apparent by deep cuts throughout the bill, an allocation of \$158 billion, or \$5 billion less than current funding, is insufficient to meet the needs of this nation.

Since 2010, the 302(b) allocation for this spending bill has been cut by 16 percent, adjusted for inflation. The House Appropriations Committee's allocation would cut funding by another 3 percent below current levels and further erode programs that touch the lives of every American. Programs that protect us from threats to our health including infectious diseases like Zika virus. That support students from pre-K through graduate school to ensure future generations are globally competitive. That get Americans ready to work in the 21st Century American economy.

As we noted in our letter to you in May, continued cuts to the Labor-HHS-Education bill are limiting the capacity of even our best proven programs, while simultaneously leaving no room for new opportunities to improve American's lives and livelihoods. Continued cuts to these programs are:

- 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 college 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 seven million citizens from accessing the critical workforce and job training services that Congress overwhelmingly authorized in 2014; and
- Ignoring the needs of individuals who find themselves without a high school credential and who need a pathway back to education, employment and active citizenship.

The allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education spending bill will fail to meet the government's commitment to provide for the general welfare of Americans, as will many of the nondefense discretionary (NDD) bills proposed by the House Appropriations Committee. To adequately support programs that support all Americans, Congress and the President must work together to raise the budget caps on NDD funding and the allocation for this bill, specifically.

If you have questions about this statement or the community's concerns, please contact:

Emily Holubowich, Coalition for Health Funding (eholubowich@dc-crd.com);

Sheryl Cohen, Committee for Education Funding (cohen@cef.org); or

Kermit Kaleba, Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce (kermitk@nationalskillscoalition.org).