



July 26, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Representative DeLauro:

On behalf of the National Association of Elementary School Principals, we strongly oppose the FY24 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill that was recently approved by an appropriations subcommittee and urge you to vote against it when the full House Appropriations Committee considers the legislation.

As the organization representing the nation's elementary and middle level school leaders, we are gravely concerned about the bill's draconian cuts to federal K-12 education programs, notably the 80% cut to Title I (-\$14.74 billion) and the elimination of funding for Title II – Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (-\$2.19 billion) and Title III—English Language Acquisition Grants (-\$890 million) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). In addition, the bill would cut Head Start funding by \$750 million (6.3%).

These devastating cuts will disproportionately affect our students and schools most in need of additional support. Indeed, a funding reduction of this magnitude would eliminate services for 25 million students. Making matters worse, the bill's proposed rescission of \$8.7 billion in previously enacted Title I funding would exacerbate the impact of these cuts and require immediate and extensive cutbacks in school programs and budgets this school year.

The emergency pandemic funding provided by Congress for Covid mitigation and recovery has been essential to schools and continues to be used for those purposes and according to congressionally authorized timelines. But this one-time funding is not a replacement for ongoing federal education investments via the annual appropriations process.

Similarly, effective teachers and school leaders are two of the most influential factors in student success. Eliminating the Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Title II) will cut off the only source of funding school districts in many states receive to help train existing educators. Effective principals and teachers are an essential strategy for the academic recovery of students and this educator assistance funding bolsters job satisfaction and helps with staff retention at a time when many schools are facing dire personnel shortages.



National Association of Elementary School Principals

Serving All Elementary and Middle-Level Principals

The funding reductions for K-12 education in the FY24 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill are unprecedented and enormously detrimental to students and school systems. We urge you to oppose these cuts and to pass a bill that, at a minimum, maintains funding at current FY23 levels.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Griffith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Griffith
Associate Executive Director, Policy & Advocacy

C: House Appropriations Committee Members