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May 12, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health,
and Human Services, and Education
Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health,
and Human Services, and Education
Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health,
and Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health,
and Human Services, and Education
Senate Appropriations Committee

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Cole, and Ranking Member Blunt:

We thank you for the historic increase to the Full-Service Community Schools program for FY 2022 to \$75 million. As you develop the Fiscal Year **(FY) 2023** appropriations bill for the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, the Communities In Schools and the undersigned organizations encourage you to significantly increase funding for the **Full-Service Community Schools Program** (Title IV Part F of the Every Student Succeeds Act) **to match President Biden's 2023 budget request of \$468 million, including \$25 million for schools to design and implement integrated student supports (ISS).**

Communities In Schools® (CIS®) is a national organization that ensures every student, regardless of race, zip code, or socioeconomic background has what they need to realize their potential in school and beyond. Working directly inside 2,900 schools across the country, we connect students to caring adults and community resources through our evidence-based integrated student supports that help them see, confront, and overcome the barriers that stand between them and a brighter future.

Integrated student supports (ISS) are a student-centered approach to promoting students' academic success by developing or securing and coordinating supports that target academic and non-academic barriers to achievement. A designated coordinator manages steps like the planning and integration of programming and resources, allowing teachers to teach and principals to focus on leading the school. The coordinator then leverages community-based resources to connect students and families with academic, social, health, and wellness support- all while creating and contributing to a climate of safety and trust. By having a coordinator work with a school support team to plan for integrated student supports with clear roles and responsibility, a Community School lays a strong foundation for community partners and resources to be brokered into a school and be aligned to the goals set and needs identified.

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The concept of Integrated Student Supports, which was included as a priority in the 2015 reauthorization language of the Every Student Succeeds Act is about **scaling a process, and not a specific program.**

Therefore, we believe this grant, particularly the set aside for integrated student supports, will allow community-based organizations to continue scaling the basic standard of ISS to present an evidence based, data driven story on how to best address a range of student and family needs around social, emotional, mental health, physical health, and academic needs. These cross-agency efforts are internal and external to the school and require close tracking and monitoring at the student, school and system level if they are going to be sustained from a local and state level, as well as federal level.

We support the President's budget request of \$468 million for FY 2023 and request that you match this amount for the program in the FY 2023 appropriations process, including \$25 million for integrated student supports.

Thank you for your continued support of Community Schools and wrap-around student support services.

Sincerely,



Rey Saldaña,
President and CEO, Communities In Schools

After-School All-Stars
Afterschool Alliance
America's Promise
Boys and Girls Clubs of America
City Year
Committee for Children
Every Hour Counts
Mentor
Voices for National Service
YMCA of the USA