

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chairman
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on LHHS-Ed Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee

August 6, 2019

Dear Senators Shelby, Leahy, Blunt, and Murray:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations of the Title IV-A Coalition, we urge you to increase the 302(b) allocation for the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (LHHS-Ed) Subcommittee FY 2020 appropriations bill by at least its proportional share of the additional spending under H.R. 3877, the recently passed Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019. We greatly appreciate that Congress recognized the need for additional spending and we hope that LHHS-Ed will receive enough to make critical increases to education programs, including the flexible block grant under Title IV-A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Authorized at \$1.6 billion through 2021, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) block grant under Title IV-A of ESSA supports three important education areas: 1) safe and healthy students activities, such as providing comprehensive mental and behavioral health services to students, implementing violence prevention programs, trauma informed care, and school safety trainings; 2) increasing student access to a well-rounded education, such as: STEM; computer science and accelerated learning courses; career and technical education; physical education; the arts; music; foreign languages; college and career counseling; effective school library programs; and social and emotional learning; and 3) providing students with access to technology and digital materials and educators with technology professional development opportunities.

We thank Congress for appropriating \$1.1 billion in FY 18 and \$1.17 billion in FY 19 for Title IV-A, funding levels that have allowed districts the flexibility to meaningfully invest in many of these program areas that provide essential educational services to students. We hope that Congress will continue to invest in our nation's schools, educators, and most importantly, our students. For these reasons, we strongly urge Congress to provide at least a proportional share of funding to the LHHS-Ed Subcommittee and to fully fund the SSAE flexible grant program at \$1.6 billion in FY 2020.

Sincerely,