COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

December 23, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
132 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 2 0515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
1101 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Harkin, Chairman Kingston, Ranking Member Moran and Ranking Member DeLauro:

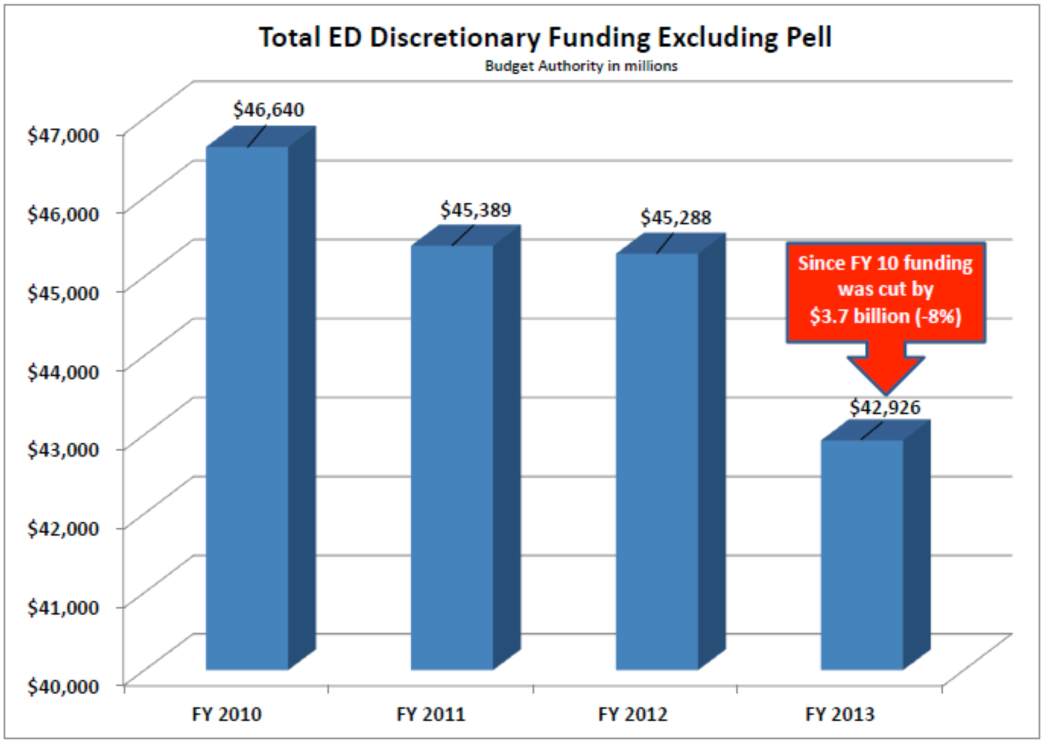
The Committee for Education Funding (CEF), a coalition of 113 national education associations and institutions representing preschool to postgraduate education, **urges you to restore the harmful sequester cuts to education and related programs.** Where possible, additional investments to meet unmet needs in many of these programs should also be provided.

1640 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Ste. 600, Washington, DC 20036
Phone (202) 383-0083 Fax (202) 463-4803
www.cef.org; www.twitter.com/edfunding

We understand that the Subcommittee faces difficult choices in preparing the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill since the overall pool of funds provided by the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) for nondefense discretionary programs is below the FY 2014 pre-sequester cap established by the Budget Control Act, and the subcommittee's allocation is below the level set by the Senate.

However, we urge you to fully restore the harmful FY 2013 sequester cuts and the additional FY 2013 0.2 percent across-the-board cut for education programs, Head Start, libraries and museums.

Education programs have been subject to multiple waves of cuts since FY 2010. Discretionary funded programs in the Department of Education (exclusive of Pell grants) have been cut by $3.7 billion, an 8 percent reduction.



As you know, other than the Pell grant program which was exempt from the sequester cuts, the entire range of education programs was harmed by the senseless sequester including Title I, Impact Aid, teacher quality state grants, magnet schools, after school, rural education, programs for English Language Learners, IDEA special education, career and technical education, SEOG and College Work Study, TRIO and GEAR UP, aid to HBCUs and other MSIs and educational research and statistics. The sequester also cut Head Start funding by $401 million, cutting off services to 57,000 low-income children.

In addition to these discretionary cuts, restrictions and limitations on interest subsidies for federal student loans and curtailed eligibility for Pell grants resulted in college students contributing $5.6 billion out of their pockets to deficit reduction.

These three years of budget cuts have moved our nation backward on efforts to improve overall student achievement, close achievement gaps, and increase high school graduation and college access and completion rates. These waves of cuts have come at a time when enrollments have increased at both the K-12 and higher education levels and states, schools, students, colleges, libraries and museums have endured deep state and local budget cuts.

We are pleased that the passage of the BBA recognizes that solving our nation's fiscal situation and reducing the debt can't and won't happen simply by slashing education and other nondefense discretionary spending. The need to increase the federal investment in education has never been greater. Jobs and the economy are directly linked to such investments. Both unemployment rates and lifetime earnings are based on levels of education attainment.

Thank you for your support for investments in education, which are investments in our nation's future economic growth and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Jones
President

Joel Packer
Executive Director