

TITLE IV-A

COALITION

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
The Capitol, S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
The Capitol, S-221
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 22, 2019

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Republican Leader McConnell, and Democratic Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge you to pass bipartisan legislation that waives the Budget Control Act's FY20 and FY21 spending caps and establishes new overall spending caps that allow for adequate investments in k-12 education programs. If a budget deal is not passed and sequester spending levels are enacted, education funding is in grave jeopardy of facing disproportionate cuts that would seriously impede the ability of Congress to make adequate investments in truly critical programs like the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) block grant under Title IV-A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Authorized at \$1.6 billion through 2021, the SSAE block grant 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; social and emotional learning; and, 3) providing students with access to technology and digital materials and educators with technology professional development opportunities.

We greatly appreciate that Congress appropriated \$1.1 billion in FY 18 and \$1.17 billion in FY 19 for Title IV-A, funding levels that allowed districts the flexibility to meaningfully invest in many of these program areas that provide essential educational services to students. As you contemplate spending cap negotiations, we urge you to bear in mind the important investments the federal government makes in k-12 education programs and to ensure that any final budget deal guarantees that students and educators can continue to rely on stable Title IV-A funding for so many of their educational needs.

We are grateful for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,