

June 25, 2015

Chairman Thad Cochran
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Barbara Mikulski
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Ranking Member Mikulski:

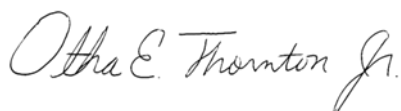
As the nation's largest volunteer child advocacy association, National PTA continues to be a powerful voice for all children by advocating for federal policies and investments to improve educational equity and opportunity for all children and their families. On behalf of our almost four million members—that include parents, teachers, students, administrators and community leaders in more than 22,000 local chapters across 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the Department of Defense schools in Europe—we write to express our strong opposition to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) Appropriations bill.

National PTA is committed to ensuring that all children receive the resources and opportunities to succeed in school and life. However, those essential goals become less plausible for every child when non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs continue to be cut every year, causing a disinvestment in education programs.

The LHHS appropriations bill that passed out of the Senate subcommittee yesterday would eliminate 10 education programs and reduce education funding in FY 2016 by \$1.7 billion. Such actions are short term fiscal solutions that will have lasting, negative effects on the education outcomes for children and their families.

While we do appreciate the subcommittee's decision to increase funding for a few education programs, so many other important investments in children and education were either eliminated or severely cut. Instead of continued cuts, we urge Members of Congress to reach a bipartisan agreement that raises the sequester-level caps—similar to the Ryan-Murray Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013—in order to invest in the future of our children through the opportunities that a good education can provide them.

Sincerely,



Dr. Otha Thornton
President
National PTA



Nathan Monell
Executive Director
National PTA