

May 14, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services and Education  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services and Education  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

The 138 undersigned organizations write in support of robust funding for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFECs) grant program and respectfully request no less than its authorized level of \$10 million—in the FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (L-HHS-ED) appropriations bill. This FY2019 request comes after you and your House counterparts saw fit to provide \$10 million for this program in the L-HHS-ED portion of Public Law 115-141. We very much appreciate the Subcommittee’s leadership in making this 2018 investment and urge continued funding for this program in FY2019. A bipartisan group of [36 Senators](#) have also shown their support for SFECs by signing on to a Dear Colleague letter to fund the program at its authorized level of \$10 million.

The SFECs grant program is one of the few non-categorical programs maintained in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Both the inclusion of SFECs in ESSA and the \$10 million appropriation in FY2018 is evidence of Congress’ recognition of the importance of parent and family engagement. The SFECs program builds capacity for states and school districts to systematically embed family engagement policies and practices in their education plans. SFECs will also provide much needed professional development for educators and school leaders to strengthen school-family partnerships and parent-teacher relationships. Additionally, the SFEC program provides direct services to families to give them the tools to effectively work with their child’s school to improve their child’s academic outcomes and overall well-being.

With ESSA implementation underway, states, school districts, school leaders and parents need the SFEC program to effectively engage parents as stakeholders and successfully implement the law as Congress intended. Research shows that family engagement advances the academic and developmental progress of children and drives student achievement. Our organizations believe that an investment in SFECs is critical to ensuring that families are meaningfully supported and engaged in their child’s education, so they can support our nation’s students in becoming fully prepared for higher education, workforce and career opportunities in the 21st century.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and we look forward to working with you to ensure this important program receives funding in FY 2019.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Afterschool Alliance  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Council for School Social Work  
American Federation of School Administrators

American School Health Association  
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs  
Autism Society  
AVID  
Campaign for Youth Justice  
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues  
Council for Exceptional Children  
Council of Administrators of Special Education  
Council of Chief State School Officers  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Easterseals  
EDGE Consulting LLC  
Focus First Campaign for Children  
Futures Without Violence  
Healthy Teen Network  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters  
Institute for Educational Leadership  
Justice for Families  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Magnet Schools of America  
NAACP  
National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement  
National Association of Elementary School Principals  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
National Association of State Boards of Education  
National Association of State Directors of Special Education  
National Center for Families Learning  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment  
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Education Association  
National Indian Education Association  
National Juvenile Justice Network  
National Network for Youth  
National PTA  
National School Public Relations Association  
PACER Center  
Parents as Teachers  
SchoolHouse Connection  
TASH  
Teach Plus  
The Advocacy Institute  
The Arc of the United States

#### State Organizations

Advocates for Children of NY (New York)  
Alabama Parent Education Center (Alabama)

Alabama PTA  
Alaska PTA  
APNI (Puerto Rico)  
Arizona PTA  
Arkansas PTA  
Association for Special Children & Families (New Jersey)  
California PTA  
Colorado PTA  
Connecticut PTA  
Delaware PTA  
District of Columbia PTA  
Empowerment Parent Resource Center of Northwest Florida  
European PTA  
F I R S T (North Carolina)  
Families Together, Inc. (Kansas)  
Family Connection of South Carolina  
Family Resource Center on Disabilities (Illinois)  
Federation for Children with Special Needs (Massachusetts)  
Florida PTA  
Georgia PTA  
Hawaii PTA  
Idaho PTA  
Illinois PTA  
Indiana PTA  
IN\*SOURCE (Indiana)  
INCLUDEnyc (New York)  
Iowa PTA  
Kansas PTA  
Kentucky PTA  
Kentucky Statewide Parent Involvement Network  
Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of Hawaii  
Louisiana PTA  
Maine Parent Federation  
Maine PTA  
Maryland PTA  
Massachusetts PTA  
Michigan Alliance PTI  
Michigan PTA  
Minnesota PTA  
Mississippi PTA  
Missouri Parents Act  
Missouri PTA  
Montana PTA  
Nevada PTA  
New Jersey PTA  
New Mexico PTA  
New York PTA  
North Carolina PTA  
North Dakota PTA

Northwest Arkansas Community Parent Resource Center  
Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities  
Ohio PTA  
Oklahoma PTA  
Open Doors for Multicultural Families (Washington)  
Oregon PTA  
Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership Center (Pennsylvania)  
Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (Virginia)  
Parent to Parent of Miami, Inc. (Florida)  
Parents Helping Parents of Wyoming, Inc.  
Parents Reaching Out (New Mexico)  
PEAK Parent Center (Colorado)  
Pennsylvania PTA  
Puerto Rico PTA  
Pyramid Community Parent Resource Center (Louisiana)  
Raising Special Kids (Arizona)  
Rhode Island Parent Information Network  
Rhode Island PTA  
South Carolina PTA  
South Dakota Parent Connection  
South Dakota PTA  
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network (New Jersey)  
Support and Training for Exceptional Parents (Tennessee)  
Tennessee PTA  
Texas PTA  
The Arc Michigan  
The Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities (Mississippi)  
The HOPE Family Support Network (North Carolina)  
THRIVE Center (Colorado)  
U.S. Virgin Islands PTA  
United We Stand of New York  
Utah PTA  
Vermont PTA  
Virginia PTA  
Washington State PTA  
West Virginia PTA  
Wisconsin PTA  
Wyoming PTA