April 22, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Subcommittee of Labor, Health and Human Service, and Education-Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 205

Dear Chair Delauro and Ranking Member Cole:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to request your support of the President’s 30 million FY’23 budget request to improve the education of children in foster care. The funding will support a federally funded five-year grant program to launch, implement, and evaluate new or existing Foster Youth Education (FYE) programs. FYE programs seek to improve the academic outcomes of students in foster care by employing professionals responsible for regularly connecting with students in foster care and provide mentoring, guidance, educational advocacy and decision-making, focused on foster care students’ needs.

Our organizations advocate and provide services for children and youth in foster care systems. We are deeply concerned about the poor educational outcomes of students in foster care and the substantial challenges that they face beyond those experienced by similarly situated students. Compared to the general student population, students in foster care are suspended and expelled at much higher rates, are more likely to perform poorly on standardized testing and are up to three times more likely to drop out of high school.

Unfortunately, federal policy responses including The Every Student Succeeds Act – which provides state and local requirements for education agencies related to students in foster care – have lacked targeted funding to states or districts to implement critical provisions and ensure compliance. Additionally, there is limited federal capacity to provide technical assistance to states to ensure quality implementation. As a result, these provisions have not been fully and effectively implemented, significantly limiting their potential impact.

The $30,000,000 in the FY’23 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) Appropriations bill will help ensure students in foster care receive the educational supports they need to succeed in school. We thank you for your past support and commitment to addressing the education needs of students in foster care, and we look forward to working with you during the upcoming budget cycle.

For these reasons, the National Center for Youth Law is pleased to support President’s $30 million request to improve the education of children in foster care in the FY’23 LHHS appropriations bill and respectfully request your support of the budget request.

Sincerely,

Jesse Hahnel, National Center for Youth Law
Adoption Rhode Island
Advocates for Children of New York
American Youth Policy Forum
Annie C Courtney Foundation
Arizona Council of Human Service Providers
Ark Homes Foster Family Agency
California Youth Connection
Center for Popular Democracy
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Aid
Children's Center of Northwest NC
Children's Home Society of America
Children's League of Massachusetts
Children's Rights
Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families
Council for Children's Rights
Disability Law Colorado
Disability Rights Maryland
Education Law Center
Education Law Center – Pennsylvania
Embrella, Embracing & Empowering Families
Evident Change
Evident Change
First Focus Campaign for Children
Girls Inc.
John Burton Advocates for Youth
Juvenile Law Center
Kingsley House
Legal Aid Justice Center
Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.
Maryville Academy
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Parents Union
National PTA
New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors
Parents Organized for Public Education
Partners for Our Children, University of Washington School of Social Work
Public Advocacy for Kids
SchoolHouse Connection
Social Current
State of Minnesota-Office of Ombudsperson for African American Families
Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services
The Advocacy Institute
The Education Trust
Think of Us
Treehouse
Voice for Adoption
Voices for Vermont’s Children
Washington Association for Children and Families
Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
William E. Morris Institute for Justice
Youth Law Center
Youth Villages
Youth, Rights & Justice
April 22, 2022

Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Service and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Blunt:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to request your support of the President’s 30 million FY’23 budget request to improve the education of children in foster care. The funding will support a federally funded five-year grant program to launch, implement, and evaluate new or existing Foster Youth Education (FYE) programs. FYE programs seek to improve the academic outcomes of students in foster care by employing professionals responsible for regularly connecting with students in foster care and providing mentoring, guidance, educational advocacy and decision-making, focused on foster care students’ needs.

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Sincerely,
Jesse Hahnel, National Center for Youth Law