

TITLE IV-A COALITION

February 9, 2022

Dear Members of the Senate:

**ALLY TALCOTT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
TITLE IV-A COALITION**

**ABE SAFFER, AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY ASSOCIATION (AOTA)**

**DUSTIN LOEHR, DIRECTOR OF ARTS
EDUCATION & TITLE IV-A, ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VP**

**KELLY VAILLANCOURT STROBACH,
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL
PSYCHOLOGISTS (NASP)**

**KENNETH POLISHCHUK, AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (APA)**

**KEVIN MAHER, AMERICAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION (ALA)**

**LINDSAY KUBATZKY, NATIONAL CENTER
FOR LEARNING DISABILITIES (NCLD)**

**TOOSHAR SWAIN, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR MUSIC EDUCATION (NAFME)**

On behalf of the Title IV-A Coalition, a diverse group of organizations advocating for full funding and the successful implementation of the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant program under Title IV Part A of The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), we urge Congress to quickly pass an FY 2022 appropriations bill with \$2 billion for Title IV-A. This block grant supports investments in safe and healthy students, well-rounded education programs, and the effective use of technology in education.

Title IV-A funds help support comprehensive school health services, which are critical as children get back to school. Such services help students cope with the ongoing pandemic and have been instrumental in providing professional development for educators on the effective use of technology to

keep children engaged in learning, whether in a classroom, hybrid, or virtual environment. All of the Title IV-A supported initiatives play a critical role in ensuring a well-rounded education and the necessary comprehensive academic, social-emotional, and mental and behavioral health supports that address the needs of the whole child. Without this critical investment, districts could be forced to choose between offering music and arts instruction, or increasing access to AP courses. Robust investment in Title IV-A helps ensure districts are able to provide a full array of services and learning opportunities that meet the unique needs of their school community.

This summer the House passed its FY 2022 LHHS-Education appropriations bill, which provides \$1.305 billion for Title IV-A, which is an increase of ~10 million over FY 2021. The bill released this fall by the Senate Appropriations Committee proposes a \$12 million increase for Title IV-A, totalling \$1.32 billion for FY 2022. We appreciate these investments, but reiterate our call for an investment of \$2 billion in FY 2022.

We are grateful for the COVID-relief funding provided by Congress via the CARES Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, and the American Rescue Plan. These funds will help with emergency costs caused by the pandemic, but do not address

the long-standing needs of schools and districts across the country. Our nation's public education system has been underfunded for the last decade: in inflation-adjusted terms, funding for the Department of Education is now more than \$7 billion below the level of FY 2011, despite continued increases in student enrollment. Every month that Congress extends the freeze at last year's levels is a month lost where we could be improving teaching and learning, and allowing students, administrators, and institutions to effectively plan their services. Importantly, delayed passage of FY 2022 appropriations, which is already more than 4 months overdue, hampers the ability of State Education Agencies (SEAs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to adequately plan their 2022-2023 budget. This uncertainty is unduly adding to the overwhelming stress felt by school leaders as they strive to plan for future student support and academic enrichment for their students.

We urge Congress to act quickly to increase investments in this bipartisan program that are overdue and are more important than ever as students, educators, and administrators grapple with the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. Another continuing resolution is not an option.

Sincerely

Advance CTE
Afterschool Alliance
All4Ed
American Counseling Association
American Federation of School Administrators
American Library Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American School Counselor Association
City Year Inc.
College Board
Committee for Children
Communities In Schools
Consortium For School Networking
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Educational Theatre Association
Futures Without Violence
International Baccalaureate Organization
International Society for Technology in Education
League of American Orchestras

Learning Disabilities Association of America
MENTOR
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association for Music Education
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Council for the Social Studies
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National PTA
National Science Teaching Association
National Summer Learning Association
School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA)
School-Based Health Alliance
Society of Health and Physical Educators
State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education
State Educational Technology Directors Association
STEM Education Coalition
Young Audiences Arts for Learning