January 24, 2024

Dear Chair Aderholt, Chair Baldwin, Ranking Member Capito, & Ranking Member DeLauro:

The 87 undersigned national and state organizations respectfully request $25 million for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFEC) grant program and oppose any cuts to the program in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (L-HHS-ED) appropriations bill.

Research shows that family engagement advances the academic and developmental progress of our nation’s children and drives increases in student achievement. The SFEC program provides much-needed technical assistance and partnership development to states and school districts to foster meaningful engagement with families to further their children's academic and developmental progress. SFECs work with all parents and schools throughout their state to create systemic improvements and simultaneously provide direct services to families to equip them with the tools to effectively work with schools to improve academic outcomes and overall well-being for their children. The success of SFECs has been well documented, and they serve as a vital resource for families during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 and careers.

Family engagement boasts strong bipartisan support – leaders of recent “Dear Colleague” letters supporting robust funding for the SFEC program include Representative Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA), Representative Glenn ‘GT’ Thompson (R-PA), Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) and Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC). Colleagues from both sides of the aisle have continuously affirmed their support for an increase of funding for SFECs on the behalf of their constituents. More than ever, continued bipartisan support for the program is needed to strengthen family engagement in schools.

With top-line funding levels agreed to, we respectfully request at least $25 million in funding for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers grant program in the FY 2024 L-HHS-ED appropriations bill. That funding level would enable all existing grants to continue and provide additional states the opportunity to engage in this great work. Thank you again for your consideration of our request, and we look forward to working with you to support this important program.

Sincerely,
National Organizations

National PTA
National Center for Families Learning
PACER Center
All4Ed
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)
Center for Family Involvement @ VCU
Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities
Council for Exceptional Children
Council of Administrators of Special Education
EDGE Consulting Partners
Federation for Children with Special Needs
GLSEN
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Learning Heroes
National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE)
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)
National Military Family Association
Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center
Parents as Teachers
SchoolHouse Connection
Show and Tell
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children (TED)
The Advocacy Institute
The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence

State & Local Organizations

Alabama PTA
Alliance for Quality Education
Amanda Elzy High School PTSA
Arizona PTA
Arkansas Congress of Parents and Teachers
Arkansas State Independent Living Council
Birmingham City Council PTA/PTSA
Black Hills Special Services Cooperative
California State PTA
Carolina Family Engagement Center
Colorado PTA
Connecticut PTA
Delaware PTA
East Middle School PTA
Family Connection of South Carolina
FIRSTwnc
Florida PTA
Georgia Parents & Teachers Association
Hawai‘i State PTSA
Illinois PTA
Indiana PTA
IN*SOURCE
Iowa PTA
Kentucky PTA
Louisiana Parent Teacher Association
Massachusetts Parent Teacher Association
Michigan PTA
Minnesota PTA
Mississippi PTA
Missouri PTA
Nebraska PTA
New Hampshire PTA
New Jersey PTA
New Mexico PTA
North Carolina PTA
North Dakota PTA
NYS Parent Teacher Association
Ohio PTA
Oklahoma PTA
Oregon PTA
Parent Information Center of Delaware
Parents Helping Parents (Silicon Valley)
Pathfinder Services of ND
PEAK Parent Center
Pennsylvania PTA
Puerto Rico PTA
Research, Evaluation, and Measurement Center at the University of South Carolina
RIPIN
South Dakota State PTA
SD Statewide Family Engagement Center
Tennessee PTA
Texas PTA
The Parents' Place of MD
Vermont PTA
Virginia PTA
Washington State PTA
West Virginia PTA
Wyoming State PTA