

May 10, 2017

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 100 undersigned organizations write in support of robust funding for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers grant program and respectfully request no less than its authorized level of \$10 million—in the FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (L-HHS-ED) appropriations bill.

The Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFECs) grant program is one of the few non-categorical programs from No Child Left Behind (NCLB) that was maintained in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Both the House of Representatives and the Senate recognized the importance of parent and family engagement in education by including the SFECs program as a standalone program in their respective reauthorization bills. Known as the Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs) under NCLB, the improved SFECs program will build capacity for states and school districts to systematically embed family engagement policies and practices in their education plans. The SFEC program will provide much needed professional development for educators and school leaders to strengthen school-family partnerships and parent-teacher relationships. Additionally, SFECs will provide 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 our nation's children and drives increases in 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.

A Dear Colleague letter to fund Statewide Family Engagement Centers is being circulated and we hope that you will show your support for the program by signing on. 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 2018.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Afterschool Alliance

American Federation of School Administrators

American School Health Association
Campaign for Youth Justice
Coalition for Community Schools at the Institute for Education Leadership
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Easterseals
First Focus Campaign for Children
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Magnet Schools of America
National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of State Boards of Education
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
National Council of La Raza
National Education Association
National PTA
PACER Center
Parents as Teachers

State Organizations

Alabama Parent Education Center
Alabama PTA
Alaska PTA
Arizona PTA
Arkansas PTA
Association for Special Children and Families (New Jersey)
California State PTA
Colorado PTA
Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition
Connecticut PTA
Delaware PTA
District of Columbia PTA
European PTA
Families Helping Families of Jefferson (Louisiana)
Families Together, Inc. (Kansas)
Family Matters (Illinois)
Family Resource Center on Disabilities (Illinois)
Federation for Children with Special Needs (Massachusetts)
Florida PTA
Georgia PTA
Hawaii PTA
Idaho Parents Unlimited
Idaho PTA
Illinois PTA

INCLUDEnyc (New York)
Indiana PTA
IN*SOURCE (Indiana)
Iowa PTA
Kansas PTA
Kentucky PTA
Kentucky Statewide Parent Involvement Network
Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii (Hawaii)
Long Island Communities of Practice (New York)
Louisiana PTA
Maine PTA
Maryland PTA
Massachusetts PTA
Michigan PTA
Minnesota PTA
Mississippi Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities
Mississippi PTA
Missouri PTA
Montana PTA
Nevada PTA
New Hampshire PTA
New Jersey PTA
New Mexico PTA
New York State PTA
North Carolina PTA
North Dakota PTA
Ohio PTA
Oklahoma PTA
Oregon PTA
Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (Virginia)
Parent to Parent of Miami (Florida)
Parents Helping Parents of Wyoming
Parents Reaching Out (New Mexico)
PTI Nebraska
Pennsylvania PTA
Puerto Rico PTA
Rhode Island Parent Information Network
Rhode Island PTA
South Carolina PTA
SPEAKS Education (Michigan)
Stone Soup Group (Alaska)
Tennessee PTA
Texas PTA
THRIVE Center (Colorado)
U.S. Virgin Islands PTA
Utah PTA
Vermont Family Network
Virginia PTA

Washington State PTA

West Virginia PTA

Wisconsin PTA

Wyoming PTA