



June 18, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to VOTE YES on H.R. 2740, the FY2020 “minibus” appropriations bill scheduled for a vote this week. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA’s Report Card for the 116th Congress.

The Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill in H.R. 2740 begins to turn the page on years of disinvestment in education. It is worth noting that current federal funding for education is \$7 billion *below* FY2011 levels after adjusting for inflation. Our students deserve much better, as the bill before the House recognizes.

**Why educators support this bill**

H.R. 2740 includes several billion dollars in crucial increases for early childhood, K-12, and higher education initiatives. Of particular note are:

- \$1 billion increases in each of two landmark programs that serve the students most in need: Title I and the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA)
- \$500 million increase in Title II, which will help reduce class sizes and provide professional development for educators
- \$40 million for full-service community schools, which more than doubles support for this community-led model
- Making higher education more affordable for students and families, including a \$150 increase in the maximum Pell grant
- Increased investment in 21st Century Community Learning Centers (after-school programs)

We urge you to VOTE YES on H.R. 2740 to provide these critical, long-overdue investments in education to help give every student the opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association