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