



July 24, 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 the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 (H.R. 3877) to lift the budget caps introduced in 2011 and prevent severe cuts in non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

In fiscal 2020 alone, the budget caps would result in automatic cuts of \$55 billion to NDD programs. H.R. 3877 would prevent that devastating occurrence and allow Congress to move forward with the full appropriations process.

We strongly believe that the final funding bill must include significant investments in education like those in the House-passed Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, particularly in programs serving the students most in need such as Title I and the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The U.S. Department of Education receives \$7 billion less, in inflation-adjusted terms, than it did in 2011 when the budget caps were introduced. Our students deserve much better. Lifting the caps for the next two years is essential if Congress is to move closer to adequate investment in America's students and schools.

We also are pleased that H.R. 3877 includes funding for the 2020 census required by the Constitution. Adequate funding is critical, since the census determines the allocation of federal dollars for programs serving every student. We know the 2020 census will be one of the most difficult in our nation's history and appreciate this step toward providing adequate funding for it.

Again, lifting the budget caps is essential to turn the page on years of disinvestment in education. We urge you to VOTE YES on H.R. 3877 to pave the way for long-overdue investments in our America's students and schools.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association