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July 27, 2021

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. 4502, which includes the FY2022 appropriations bill for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. This vote may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 117th Congress.

Provisions we strongly support

We applaud the work of the House Appropriations Committee and Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro in making an historic investment in our nation's students, educators and schools, and are pleased that the bill matches President Biden's total discretionary request and increases Department of Education funding by 41 percent over FY2021. Specifically, we applaud these provisions of the bill:

- \$19.5 billion increase for Title I programs that more than doubles FY2021 funding
- \$400 increase in the maximum Pell Grant
- \$17.2 billion for Special Education—\$3.1 billion above the FY2021 enacted level and \$7 million above the President's budget request
- \$12.2 billion for Head Start—\$1.4 billion above the FY2021 enacted level and approximately \$300 million above the President's budget request
- \$443 million for Full-Service Community Schools—\$413 million over the FY2021 enacted level to provide comprehensive services and expand evidence-based models that meet the holistic needs of children, families, and communities
- \$2.2 billion for Career, Technical and Adult Education—\$208 million above the FY2021 enacted level and \$55 million above the President's budget request

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored existing inequities in educational opportunity, particularly in Black, Brown, and rural communities. While the American Recovery Plan and other COVID-19 relief packages provided critical resources for schools and communities to address immediate issues, much more needs to be done to correct the chronic underfunding of our public school systems.

This legislation is an important step in that process and helps ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association