



1201 16th St., N.W. | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Lily Eskelsen García
President

Rebecca S. Pringle
Vice President

Princess R. Moss
Secretary-Treasurer

John C. Stocks
Executive Director

September 7, 2017

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the three million members of the National Education Association (NEA) and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to Vote No on the FY18 appropriations bill (H.R. 3354). Unfortunately, the proposed bill reflects the wrong priorities for our nation by significantly cutting crucial investments in our students, families, health care, and other vital programs. Votes on this issue may be included in the NEA Legislative Report Card for the 115th Congress.

The LHHS-Ed funding bill cuts education by \$2.4 billion (3.5 percent below the 2017 level), completely eliminates Title II (within ESSA), and slashes 21st Century Community Learning Centers that provide important afterschool services to students most in need.

Congress must start down the path of providing adequate resources, especially for students most in need, to realize the full potential of the bipartisan ESSA. Sadly, the bill fails to increase funding for Title I and entirely eliminates the \$2.1 billion Title II-A program which will severely inhibit states and local school districts from effectively and properly implementing ESSA, just as they are beginning that process. Notably, the Senate Appropriations Committee rejected this approach today. The House's steep funding cuts to education do not align with ESSA's empowerment of parents, educators, and leaders at the state and local level to ensure that students have well-resourced neighborhood public schools that are desirable places to be and where students' natural curiosity is inspired.

The proposed elimination of Title II is particularly egregious and will harm students and schools across the country. It will deprive millions of students of opportunities by eliminating funding that will result in nearly 8,500 educators losing their jobs, slashing funding for class-size reduction and limiting or eliminating professional development opportunities for nearly 2.5 million educators. [Click here](#) to see a state-by-state impact of the Title II elimination.

In addition to urging a NO vote on H.R. 3354, we urge you to:

- VOTE YES on amendment 161 introduced by Rep. DeLauro (D-CT) which would restore funding to 21st Century Community Learning Centers.
- VOTE YES on amendment 164 introduced by Rep. Courtney (D-CT) which would increase funding for magnet schools by \$1.2 million, paid for by offsetting cuts in charter schools.

- VOTE YES on amendment 166 introduced by Reps. DeSaulnier (D-CA) and Thompson (R-PA) which provides \$10 million for Statewide Family Engagement Centers.

In addition, we are opposed to any rider to the bill that would prohibit the use of any funds from being used to implement, administer, or enforce provisions of the Affordable Care Act. We also oppose any rider that would prevent the National Labor Relations Board from enforcing basic labor law protections.

For too long Congress has tied its own hands with senseless and untenable budget caps, resulting in wholly inadequate funding levels for critical programs like education. This bill is yet another reflection of that problem that only Congress can fix with a bipartisan agreement. Our students should not have to wait any longer. Investing in our students is investing in our nation's future. We urge you to **VOTE NO on H.R. 3354** and instead turn your attention to making increased investments in education, especially for students most in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Egan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association