



House GOP Appropriations Bill Attacks Teachers, Schools, and Low-Income Students

On July 19, 2017 the House Appropriations Committee passed the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill along party lines. The bill reduces the Department of Education's budget by 3.5 percent – drastically cutting funds for teachers, underinvesting in early education, and once again limiting the opportunities of low-income students from attending college. The House GOP has sent a clear message to teachers, students, and schools – do more with much less. The House GOP appropriations bill:

Fails to recognize the importance of early childhood education with limited investments in our youngest learners.

- The FY2018 budget level funds Preschool Development Grants, used to help fund preschool programs in targeted, low-income communities.
- With a less than 1 percent increase, the Child Care and Development Block Grant is essentially level funded, preventing any expansion of childcare services.
- Head Start, which provides critical wraparound services to the neediest families, only received an increase of less than 1 percent increase.

Undermines teachers and public education by eliminating and reducing programs that serve our nation's most vulnerable students.

- By level funding Title I, the House GOP effectively cuts more than \$500 million from our nation's neediest schools. The House GOP fails to uphold the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) by not accounting for school improvement grant funds promised by the law.
- The House GOP continues its attack on teachers with the complete elimination of over \$2 billion in funding of Title II-A, This will result in thousands of jobs lost, increases in class size, and students losing critical supports.
- The House GOP once again shows its disregard for our nation's underserved communities by slashing funds for after-school programs by \$190 million.
- With only an increase of \$100 million, the House GOP bill fails to uphold its promise to fully fund Title IV-A programs of ESSA, which requires \$400 million more than the House GOP allocated. This is an effective cut to programs supporting STEM, AP tests, and other crucial enrichment activities.
- The House GOP bill shows it does not prioritize the needs of students with disabilities by continuing to underfund its commitment of fully funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) at 40 percent. The House GOP bill fails students with disabilities by promising less than half of this commitment.
- By eliminating \$27 million from supporting arts education, the House GOP again proves they do not value a well-rounded education for all children.

Continues to block more low-income students from attending and completing college.

- In its bill, the House GOP level funds Pell Grants, failing to account for inflation. This significantly reduces the purchasing power of Pell Grants, as costs to attend college continue to rise. The House GOP also cut \$3.3 billion from the program's reserve, drastically limiting its potential to help future students.

The House GOP also fails to fully invest in programs aimed at supporting low-income students in college. With marginal increases of only 2 percent and 3 percent, respectively, the House GOP proves it does not consider TRIO and GEAR UP programs to be worthwhile programs.