Boston University
School of Education

Columbia University
Teachers College

Indiana University
School of Education

Iowa State University
College of Human Sciences

Georgia State University
College of Education & Human Development

North Carolina State University
College of Education

Purdue University
College of Education

Penn State University
College of Education

Rutgers University
Graduate School of Education

Texas A&M University
College of Education and Human Development

The Ohio State University
College of Education and Human Ecology

University of California – Davis
School of Education

University of California – Santa Barbara
Gevirtz Graduate School of Education

University of Connecticut
Neag School of Education

University of Florida
College of Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
College of Education

University of Iowa
College of Education

University of Kansas
School of Education

University of Maryland College Park
College of Education

University of Missouri
College of Education and Human Development

University of North Carolina
School of Education

University of Oregon
College of Education

University of Pittsburgh
School of Education

University of Southern California
Rossier School of Education

University of South Dakota
School of Education

University of Vermont
College of Education and Social Services

University of Washington
College of Education

Vanderbilt University
Peabody College of Education and Human Development

Virginia Commonwealth University
School of Education

Washington State University
College of Education

University of Georgia
School of Education

University of Arizona
School of Education

LEARN℠ Learning and Education Academic Research Network
Advancing the Sciences of Teaching and Learning

March 13, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We are writing on behalf of the Learning and Education Academic Research Network (LEARN) to express our support for funding several key programs that your subcommittee will debate as part of the ongoing FY2019 appropriations process. LEARN, a coalition of nearly 35 leading research colleges of education across the country, supports critical investments in research aimed at advancing the scientific understanding of learning and development. We advocate for greater funding for these priorities across all Federal agencies, including the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).

As the primary Federal Agency charged with supporting research for education practice and policy, IES is essential to developing a comprehensive, reliable evidence base, and ensuring that teaching and learning practices are grounded in scientifically valid research. Increased funding for education research is vital to the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), considering the legislation's focus on evidence based interventions. Given the importance of developing reliable evidence, LEARN is requesting $670 million for IES overall and $210 million for the Research, Development, and Dissemination line item within IES, in order to keep up with growth and inflation. In addition, we believe that funding for research in special education, through the National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER), should be increased by $4.26 million, to $58.26 million, still well below its FY2010 level of $71.1 million, to which it has never been restored following the FY2011 appropriations process.

There are critical education research programs in other agencies that also need additional support. NICHD is essential to education research as it examines brain functions and the impact of different educational services on learning and development. LEARN supports a similar percentage increase in NICHD funding – in line with growth and inflation – to bring the total to $1.545 billion. This increase will ensure that researchers can build on the knowledge already gained, evaluate what works best in treating developmental disorders, and develop new research-based strategies to improve student's learning and development.

In addition, LEARN supports a similar percentage increase in funding for NIMH over FY2017 enacted levels, bringing the total funding to $1.8 billion. This increase will help further understanding of the behavioral, biological, and environmental mechanisms

necessary for developing interventions to reduce the burden of mental and behavioral disorders and optimizing learning and development.

The LEARN Coalition believes strongly that these key investments in education research will drive improvements in teacher and student performance in the coming years. Thank you for considering these requests and please contact us if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Glenn E. Good, Ph.D.
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Patricia and Rodes Hart Dean of Education and Human Development of the Peabody College of Education and Human Development, Vanderbilt University

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