

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
H-309, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 appropriations bill for the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, we respectfully request that you appropriate \$728 million for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

IES delivers a variety of essential services to educators, policymakers, and parents. IES supports programs that evaluate the effects of federal and local education policies, gather and analyze data on student outcomes, develop and promote evidence-based practices for schools and teachers, and advance rigorous education research. Taken together, IES's work gives educators the information and tools they need to effectively improve learning and close achievement gaps.

For example, IES administers the National Assessment of Educational Progress—commonly known as the Nation's Report Card—which yields valuable data on student achievement across the country. IES funds longitudinal data systems and statistics programs that give educators and researchers the information they need to measure the success of education policies and practices. And IES supports Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs) and the National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER).

Research from RELs has helped school districts target support to English learners, design fairer discipline policies, and implement early interventions that keep students on track to graduate. And research from NCSER helps inform educators and families of evidence-based interventions and strategies that support the development and academic success of children with disabilities, which includes strategies for improving early childhood special education; advancing reading, writing, and language development; educating students on the autism spectrum; and helping students transition to post-secondary education and careers.

Although we appreciate the resources provided to IES in the FY 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Act, we were disappointed that no additional funding was provided for RELs and NCSER. At the same time, Congress continues to ask more of IES. For example, the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act, which replaced No Child Left Behind, places new emphasis on evidence-based decision making. The law directs IES to evaluate a number of new programs, and it requires RELs to assist states and school districts in implementing evidence-based practices.

Thank you for your attention to our request that you appropriate \$728 million for IES and increase funding for RELs and NCSER. Our education system will be stronger in the future if we provide meaningful, sustained support for rigorous education research and evaluation today.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



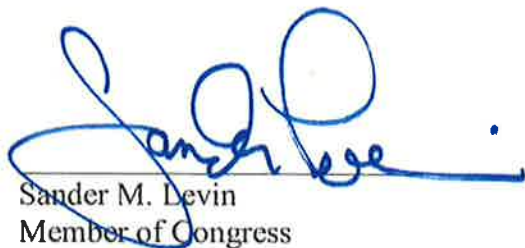
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



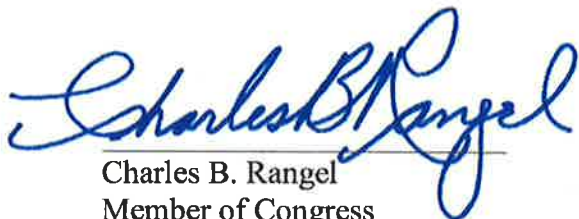
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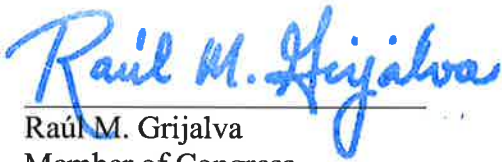
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