

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 15, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related
Agencies
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education &
Related Agencies
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray,

We are writing to request that you include no less than \$2.295 billion in funding for the Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants program (Title II, Part A) as part of the Fiscal Year 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. In addition, we request that you include \$14.5 million in funding for the School Leader Recruitment and Support Program (SLRSP), which would fund the program at FY17 levels.

Title II, Part A provides flexible funding to states, districts and schools to strengthen teacher and school leader effectiveness and improve student outcomes, especially for children from low-income families and communities. The bipartisan Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization strengthened the program by providing new opportunities for states to use Title II, Part A funds to invest in principal leadership, job-embedded professional learning and leadership opportunities for teacher, and other evidence-based leadership strategies that will lead to improved student outcomes. Twenty-four states are taking advantage of the optional three percent set-aside in Title II, Part A to invest in school leadership. Funding Title II, Part A at no less than \$2.295 billion will support momentum at the state level to use these dollars more effectively by encouraging states, districts, and schools to move forward with plans to invest in evidence-based, locally-driven strategies to strengthen school leadership.

The School Leader Recruitment and Support Program is the next iteration of the School Leadership Program, which has seeded principal training and support programs with a demonstrated track record of effectiveness. It is also the only federally authorized program specifically dedicated to strengthening school leadership. Through this program, aspiring principals gain access to high-quality preparation programs, sitting principals receive critical professional development supports and thousands of teachers—along with hundreds of thousands of students—have the opportunity to work and learn in schools where school leaders have the tools to help them maximize their potential. Recognizing the importance of school leaders, Congress included this important program in the bipartisan reauthorization of the ESEA. Funding SLRSP at \$14.5 million will allow awards of new, competitive grants to support the recruitment, preparation, placement, support and retention of effective principals in high-need schools.

Support for SLRSP and Title II, Part A is essential because strong school leaders have an outsized effect on student achievement, dramatically improving the quality of teaching, creating positive school environments and raising student achievement in a school. Both programs can help develop a pipeline of skilled new principals and target experienced principals who are in

their first year tackling the challenges of school turnaround and for whom strong support and high-quality professional learning are particularly critical. By leveraging new pathways to prepare and support outstanding educators to lead our schools, SLRSP and Title II, Part A-supported leadership strategies can amplify other investments in educator quality and lead to improved outcomes for teachers, students, and families.

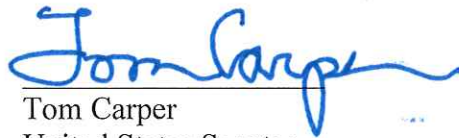
These targeted federal investments can have a huge influence on locally-driven efforts to get well-prepared, well-supported principals into our highest-need schools. We urge you to include \$14.5 million in funding for SLRSP, which would fund the program at FY17 levels, and no less than \$2.295 billion in funding for Title II, Part A to help ensure that school leaders have access to the preparation and support that enable them to drive positive change for students and teachers.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.


Sincerely,



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Tom Carper
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



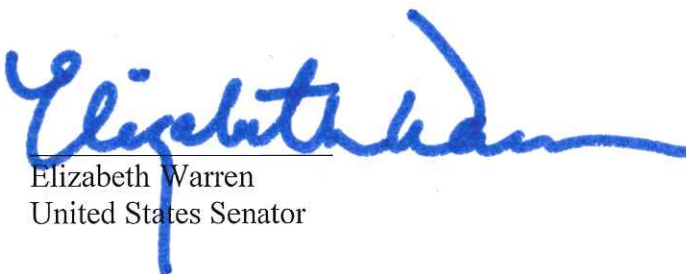
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



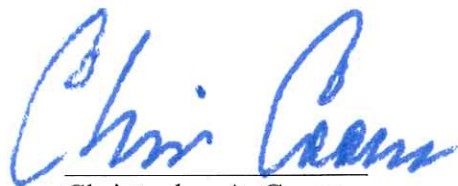
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



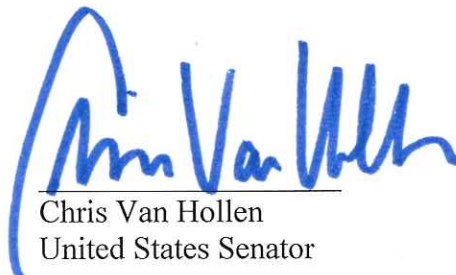
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



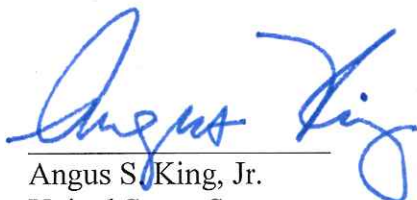
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



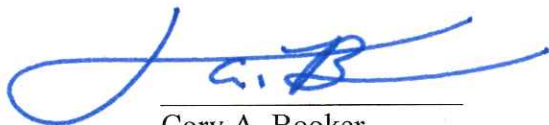
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator




Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



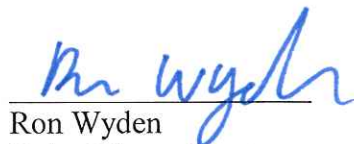
Jon Tester
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



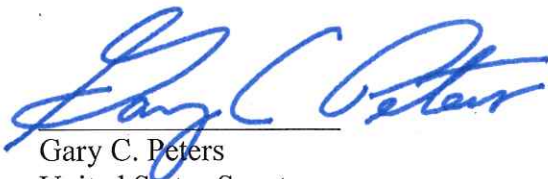
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



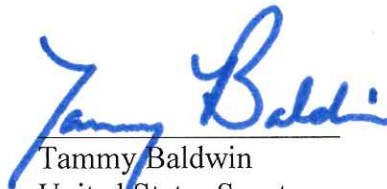
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



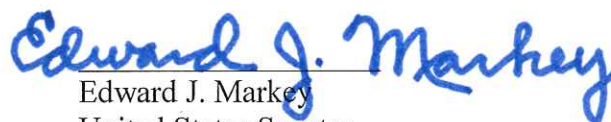
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Doug Jones
United States Senator



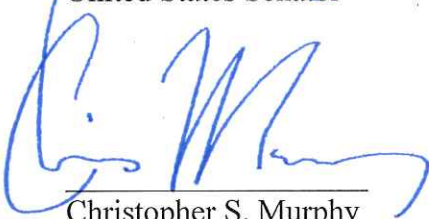
Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



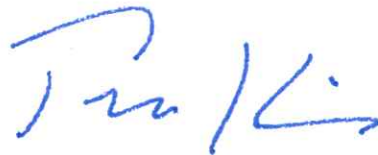
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



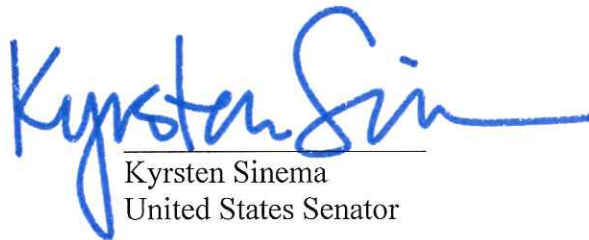
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator