

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 15, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Subcommittee of Labor, HHS, Education and  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee of Labor, HHS, Education  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

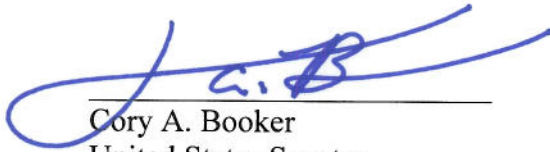
As the Subcommittee begins its consideration of the fiscal year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge the Subcommittee to maintain the Senate's robust investment in supporting a safe, healthy, and well-rounded education for all students. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed into law on December 10, 2015, included a \$1.6 billion authorization level for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program (Title IV, Part A). In FY18, Congress provided \$1.1 billion for this program, and the FY19 funding bill for the Department of Education appropriated \$1.170 billion -- significant investments in meeting the comprehensive needs of our nation's students. This funding has provided school districts with the opportunity to begin to fully realize the benefits of this program. We are grateful for this past support and ask that you maintain this strong, ongoing investment in this program, as was intended when it was first authorized.

The data are clear that to best support the academic success of our children, they must feel secure, supported and engaged in their school environment. Assisting states in making meaningful updates in technology, increasing opportunities to provide a well-rounded education, providing funds for mental health professionals and implementing locally-tailored programs to reduce the use of exclusionary discipline practices are just a few of the activities supported under this grant program. As a formula-based program focused on the flexible, locally-determined use of funds, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant is well suited to ensuring that a large number of districts have resources they can direct in a manner that best addresses their particular needs.


We have all heard from parents, educators, and students in our states who understand that students need access to a comprehensive education to compete successfully in the 21st Century global marketplace. For example, some districts have opted to spend these funds on programs that emphasize positive behavioral interventions and supports, while other districts have directed funds to develop safe and supportive learning environments. These examples go to show that the programs covered under the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program support the principle that a well-rounded curriculum should never be a luxury reserved for some, but a necessity available to all.

We are grateful for the significant resources dedicated to the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program in FY19, and we appreciate your ongoing commitment to elementary and secondary education. We ask that you continue to support our children by providing the strongest possible funding for this program, building on the FY19 enacted level, in the FY20 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

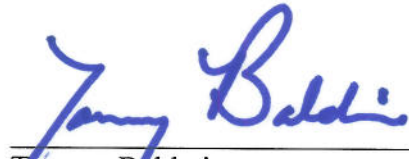
Sincerely,



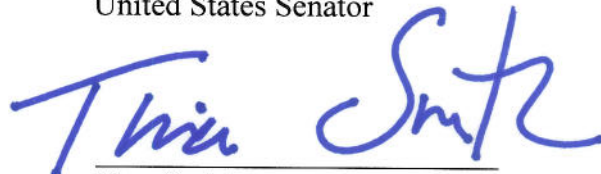
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Susan Collins  
United States Senator



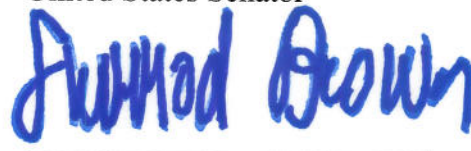
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator




Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



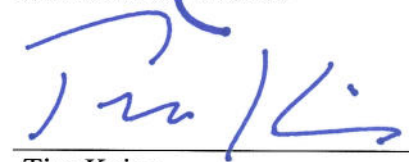
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



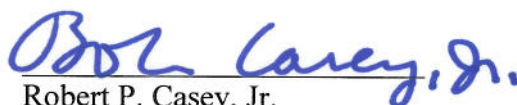
Joe Manchin, III  
United States Senator



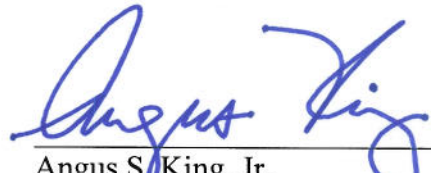
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator





Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



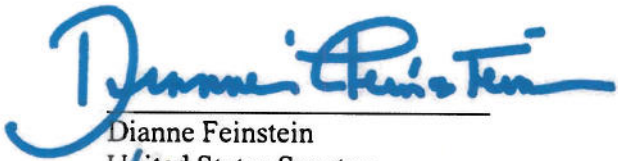
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



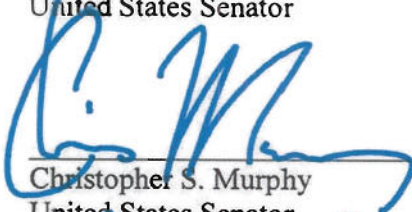
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



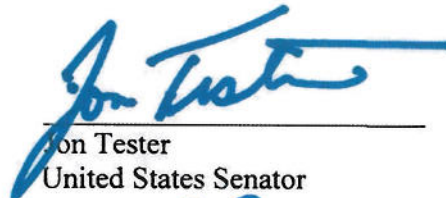
Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



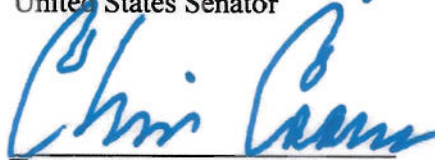
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



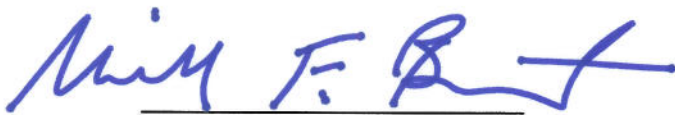
Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Doug Jones  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



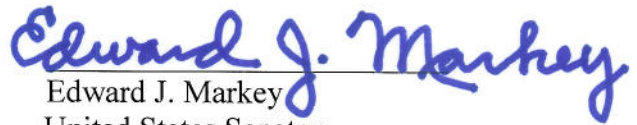
Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



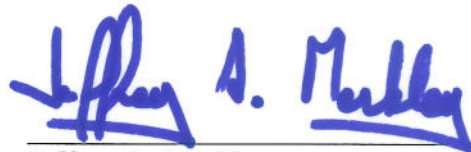
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator




Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



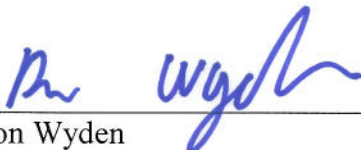
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



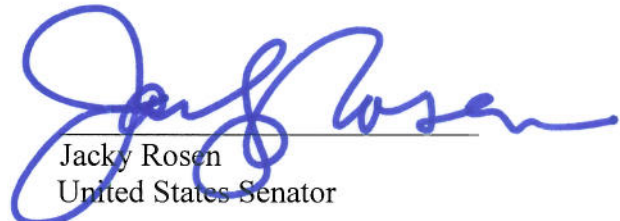
Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



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Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator