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1680 Duke Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314 -3493

July 10, 2013

Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

***RE: FY2014 Labor-Health & Human Services-Education
Appropriations bill***

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 95,000 school board members and the state school boards associations representing more than 49 million public school students throughout the nation, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) is writing to urge your support for the FY2014 Labor-Health & Human Services-Education Appropriations bill.

NSBA appreciates the Subcommittee's recommended funding allocations, which would help sustain targeted investments. We support the Subcommittee's proposed increase to Title I grants for disadvantaged students, as well as the recommended investment in early childhood education programs. This bill represents a strong effort to restore cuts and maintain investments in other areas such as teacher quality, career and technical education, and English Language Acquisition, which are critical to the success of our nation's students and school districts. Protecting baseline funding for these priorities, and providing the increases needed to help address existing shortfalls, will help our school districts and states avoid reductions to the scope and delivery of education services and advancement.

Foremost, NSBA urges you to provide the highest possible allocation for grants under the *Individuals With Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA). Local school district budgets continue to face cuts while special education costs continue to increase. Special education expenditures by local communities take up higher percentages of school budgets each year, often forcing school districts to either raise taxes or dip into general education budgets to make up the shortfall. A path toward full funding of IDEA is needed to help districts fulfill the federal IDEA requirement that has existed for almost 40 years, but has never been fully funded. For FY2013, the average federal cost share per student under IDEA is 14.9 percent, rather than the 40 percent promised by Congress when IDEA was first enacted in 1975.

A Fiscal Year 2014 funding bill that will enable our states and school districts to thrive without making further cuts to curriculum and avoiding layoffs of highly effective teachers and personnel whose work is critical to the success of our students is needed. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you as the FY2014 appropriations process moves forward.

Our Mission

Working with and
Through our State
Associations, NSBA
Advocates for Equity
and Excellence in
Public Education
through School Board
Leadership

Office of Advocacy

David A. Pickler
President

Thomas J. Gentzel
Executive Director

Michael A. Resnick
Associate Executive Director

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Resnick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a stylized 'A'.

Michael A. Resnick
Associate Executive Director