

May 14, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Education
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Education
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

The 139 undersigned organizations write in support of robust funding for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFECs) grant program and respectfully request no less than its authorized level of \$10 million—in the FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (L-HHS-ED) appropriations bill. This FY2019 request comes after you and your House counterparts saw fit to provide \$10 million for this program in the L-HHS-ED portion of Public Law 115-141. We very much appreciate the Subcommittee’s leadership in making this 2018 investment and urge continued funding for this program in FY2019. A bipartisan group of [36 Senators](#) have also shown their support for SFECs by signing on to a Dear Colleague letter to fund the program at its authorized level of \$10 million.

The SFECs grant program is one of the few non-categorical programs maintained in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Both the inclusion of SFECs in ESSA and the \$10 million appropriation in FY2018 is evidence of Congress’ recognition of the importance of parent and family engagement. The SFECs program builds capacity for states and school districts to systematically embed family engagement policies and practices in their education plans. SFECs will also provide much needed professional development for educators and school leaders to strengthen school-family partnerships and parent-teacher relationships. Additionally, the SFEC program provides direct services to families to give them the tools to effectively work with their child’s school to improve their child’s academic outcomes and overall well-being.

With ESSA implementation underway, states, school districts, school leaders and parents need the SFEC program to effectively engage parents as stakeholders and successfully implement the law as Congress intended. Research shows that family engagement advances the academic and developmental progress of children and drives student achievement. Our organizations believe that an investment in SFECs is critical to ensuring that families are meaningfully supported and engaged in their child’s education, so they can support our nation’s students in becoming fully prepared for higher education, workforce and career opportunities in the 21st century.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and we look forward to working with you to ensure this important program receives funding in FY 2019.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Afterschool Alliance
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Council for School Social Work
American Federation of School Administrators

American School Health Association
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
Autism Society
AVID
Campaign for Youth Justice
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Council for Exceptional Children
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of Chief State School Officers
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Easterseals
EDGE Consulting LLC
Focus First Campaign for Children
Futures Without Violence
Healthy Teen Network
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters
Institute for Educational Leadership
Justice for Families
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Magnet Schools of America
NAACP
National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Boards of Education
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Center for Families Learning
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Education Association
National Indian Education Association
National Juvenile Justice Network
National Network for Youth
National PTA
National School Public Relations Association
PACER Center
Parents as Teachers
SchoolHouse Connection
TASH
Teach Plus
The Advocacy Institute
The Arc of the United States

State Organizations

Advocates for Children of NY (New York)
Alabama Parent Education Center (Alabama)

Alabama PTA
Alaska PTA
APNI (Puerto Rico)
Arizona PTA
Arkansas PTA
Association for Special Children & Families (New Jersey)
California PTA
Colorado PTA
Connecticut PTA
Delaware PTA
District of Columbia PTA
Empowerment Parent Resource Center of Northwest Florida
European PTA
F I R S T (North Carolina)
Families Together, Inc. (Kansas)
Family Connection of South Carolina
Family Resource Center on Disabilities (Illinois)
Federation for Children with Special Needs (Massachusetts)
Florida PTA
Georgia PTA
Hawaii PTA
Idaho PTA
Illinois PTA
Indiana PTA
IN*SOURCE (Indiana)
INCLUDEnyc (New York)
Iowa PTA
Kansas PTA
Kentucky PTA
Kentucky Statewide Parent Involvement Network
Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of Hawaii
Louisiana PTA
Maine Parent Federation
Maine PTA
Maryland PTA
Massachusetts PTA
Michigan Alliance PTI
Michigan PTA
Minnesota PTA
Mississippi PTA
Missouri Parents Act
Missouri PTA
Montana PTA
Nevada PTA
New Jersey PTA
New Mexico PTA
New York PTA
North Carolina PTA
North Dakota PTA

Northwest Arkansas Community Parent Resource Center
Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities
Ohio PTA
Oklahoma PTA
Open Doors for Multicultural Families (Washington)
Oregon PTA
Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership Center (Pennsylvania)
Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (Virginia)
Parent to Parent of Miami, Inc. (Florida)
Parents Helping Parents of Wyoming, Inc.
Parents Reaching Out (New Mexico)
PEAK Parent Center (Colorado)
Pennsylvania PTA
Puerto Rico PTA
Pyramid Community Parent Resource Center (Louisiana)
Raising Special Kids (Arizona)
Rhode Island Parent Information Network
Rhode Island PTA
South Carolina PTA
South Dakota Parent Connection
South Dakota PTA
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network (New Jersey)
Support and Training for Exceptional Parents (Tennessee)
Tennessee PTA
Texas PTA
The Arc Michigan
The Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities (Mississippi)
The HOPE Family Support Network (North Carolina)
THRIVE Center (Colorado)
U.S. Virgin Islands PTA
United We Stand of New York
Urban League of Louisiana
Utah PTA
Vermont PTA
Virginia PTA
Washington State PTA
West Virginia PTA
Wisconsin PTA
Wyoming PTA