

Without a budget deal to raise the funding caps, funding for NDD programs, such as education and health care, will decline to the lowest level as a share of the economy in at least 50 years. Absent a deal, Congress will be denying students most in need with the supports and resources to help close opportunity gaps.

Raise the Sequester Caps / Prevent more Cuts

- ▶ **An FY16 budget agreement must raise the sequester level funding caps AND provide equal relief to Non-Defense Discretionary (NDD) and Defense programs.**
- ▶ Our nation cannot continue on this austerity path if we want to be globally competitive and if we want to provide all of our children with the opportunities to succeed in school and life.
- ▶ The impact has been greatest on our students most in need: the loss of Head Start seats (which happened almost immediately under sequestration), larger class sizes resulting in less one-on-one attention for students, and the loss of extracurricular programs.
- ▶ More than 50% the nation's public school students are now eligible for free- and reduced-priced meals. Nearly 16 million children in the United States – 20% of all children – live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level - \$23,850 a year for a family of four.
- ▶ For Title I in particular, the current year's funding is 73% of what is needed to match the level of services from 2010, despite an increase in enrollment of students in poverty during that time period.
- ▶ **Congress should NOT give up on a budget deal and should NOT pass a full-year CR.**
- ▶ A full-year CR would leave in place sequester level funding caps, trigger new across-the-board cuts to NDD of 1.4 percent and prevent parity in providing relief for NDD and Defense programs because the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding is exempt from budget caps and would result in a \$13 billion boost for defense only.
- ▶ A budget deal to raise the caps would provide Congress with the ability to target needed increases for formula grant programs like Title I and IDEA that are essential to addressing inequities and providing help to students in poverty, children with disabilities, and those most in need of extra assistance. All of our students, regardless of their zip code, deserve the tools, resources and time to learn. This means resourcing all schools so kids have one-on-one instruction, inviting classrooms, and a well-rounded curriculum.