

**The Bipartisan Budget Act provided a path to begin to reverse years of devastating cuts, but a significant increase to the allocation for the FY17 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill is needed to ensure all students have greater opportunities and to help states and local communities begin to successfully implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).**

## A Larger Increase for Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations

- ▶ The Bipartisan Budget Act took an important step forward in raising funding caps for FY16 and FY17 and providing equal sequester relief for Non-Defense Discretionary (NDD) and Defense programs. **However, FY16 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations only received an increase of 3.6% as compared to the other NDD programs average 6.9% increase.**
- ▶ Despite some increases in FY16 to programs like Title I, IDEA and Head Start, education funding for disadvantaged students is still 10 percent below FY10 levels, when adjusted for inflation.
- ▶ More than 50% of 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, making investments in programs aimed at lifting up those most in need all the more critical.
- ▶ **A larger allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education bill is crucial to providing the resources that will help states and local school districts implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that Congress passed overwhelmingly last December.**
- ▶ **Increases to ESSA programs such as Title I, Title II, Preschool Development Grants, English Language Learners (ELL), Rural education, and programs to ensure all students receive a well-rounded education are essential to ESSA's successful implementation and to close opportunity gaps.** Similarly, the perennially underfunded IDEA should receive a significant increase.
- ▶ All of our students, regardless of zip code, deserve the tools and resources to help them learn, and a significant increase to the Labor-HHS-Education bill is a necessary first step to make that happen.