

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 25, 2017

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) 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge the Subcommittee to maintain the Senate's 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 \$1.65 billion authorization level for the Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grant program (Title IV, Part A). The FY17 Omnibus bill provides \$400 million for the program, which is a step in the right direction. However, we believe it was the intent of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, who passed the Every Student Succeeds Act, that this program is not only continuously funded, but funded at the authorized level.

While we are aware of the current budget challenges and constraints, Congress conveyed a strong message about the importance of funding the wide array of activities and programs available under the new Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grant program. 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, 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.

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. The programs covered under the Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grant program will foster a balanced 21st century learning environment. Moreover, they will support the principle that a well-rounded curriculum should never be a luxury reserved for some, but a necessity available to all.

We appreciate your ongoing commitment to elementary and secondary education and ask that you continue to support our children by honoring the Senate's commitment to the Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grant program. Specifically, we ask that you continuously fund this program at the authorized level in the FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

fund this program at the authorized level in the FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Al Franken  
United States Senator



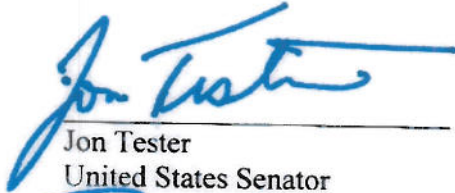
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



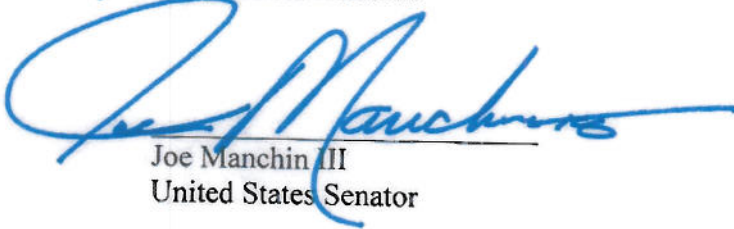
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

*Mark R Warner*

Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

*Chris Coons*

Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

*Edward J. Markey*

Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

*Tammy Duckworth*

Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

*Brian Schatz*

Brian Schatz  
United States Senator

*Angus King*

Angus S. King Jr.  
United States Senator

*Gary Peters*

Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator

*Bob Casey, Jr.*

Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

*Bernard Sanders*

Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator

*Ron Wyden*

Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

*Margaret Wood Hassan*

Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

*Richard J. Durbin*

Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

*Debbie Stabenow*

Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

*Chris Van Hollen*

Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

*Tim Kaine*

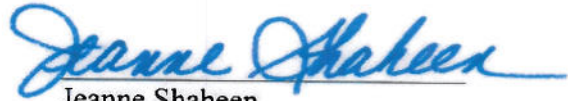
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

*Mazie Hirono*

Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator