

July 15, 2010

Dear Senator,

The undersigned organizations representing the broad range of stakeholders in the education community applaud the U.S. House of Representatives for including in the supplemental appropriations bill a \$10 billion Education Jobs Fund to stave off massive educator layoffs and \$4.95 billion to address the Pell Grant funding shortfall that threatens to cut grants to eight million college students. We urge the Senate to follow suit, by crafting a bill that can pass the Senate, address these two pending crises and be signed into law as quickly as possible.

By all accounts, hundreds of thousands of teachers, principals, and other education professionals and staff are at grave risk due to ongoing state and local fiscal crises. Without question, layoffs of this magnitude will have long-term negative consequences for our nation's children and will no doubt impede federal efforts to emerge from the economic recession that has plagued our nation. As a united community, we urge swift Senate action to ensure that the Education Jobs Fund reaches schoolhouse doors before local communities are forced to implement massive layoffs and dramatic program cuts that will harm children and impede progress on needed education reforms.

As the economy has struggled, more and more students have become eligible for Pell Grant funding, resulting in a \$5.7 billion shortfall. If we do not act, Pell Grant awards will be slashed by significant amounts, threatening the promise of college attainment for those students who have earned a place in higher education through hard-work and perseverance. Moreover, a failure to address the Pell Grant issue now will only lead to tougher choices when the Appropriations process moves forward. As a united community, we urge swift Senate action to ensure that college opportunity is not denied to worthy students on the basis of financial limitations.

While signs of economic recovery are evident at the national level, states still face a cumulative budget gap of \$200 billion for fiscal year 2010 and \$180 billion for fiscal year 2011. Thirty-four states cut funding for K-12 education and 37 states cut funding for higher education in 2010. Over 30 states are already planning additional cuts for both K-12 and higher education for fiscal year 2011. Budgetary shortfalls will result in larger class sizes and cut backs to core enrichment activities, even though we can now quantify the enormous positive impact that education yields on our economy. Economic recovery will certainly slow if we allow public sector unemployment to grow through increased layoffs. Cutting education funds and services will only hurt our long-term economic security as the dropout crisis magnifies unemployment over time.

The Education Jobs Fund will distribute monies in the same manner as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) which has already been credited with saving over 300,000 education jobs. This program worked as it was intended and can continue to do so, if the Senate acts quickly. We stand firmly behind the passage of an Education Jobs Fund and the Pell grant shortfall funds. Because some have concerns with the education offsets in the House-

passed supplemental, we urge the Senate to work with the House and the Administration to craft a package that can garner the needed votes for swift passage. We believe that through collaboration we can move this bill forward in a timely manner, save jobs, ensure college opportunity, and improve education for all of America's students.

We ask that you act in the interest of our nation's students and the teachers and other dedicated employees who serve them admirably every day.

Sincerely,

American Association of Classified School Employees  
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of School Administrators  
American Association of School Librarians  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Association of University Women  
American Council for School Social Work  
American Council on Education  
American Counseling Association  
American Dance Therapy Association  
American Federation of School Administrators, AFL-CIO  
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO  
American Library Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American School Counselor Association  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
American Student Association of Community Colleges  
Americans for Religious Liberty  
Association for Career and Technical Education  
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Association of School Business Officials International  
Association of Teacher Educators  
California School Employees Association, AFL-CIO  
Chicago Public Schools Office of Federal Legislative Relations  
Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations  
Columbia University  
Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities in New York  
Committee for Education Funding  
Connecticut Association of School Business Officials  
Cornell University  
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities  
Council for Exceptional Children  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council of Chief State School Officers

Council of Great City Schools  
Council on Social Work Education  
Duke University  
Education Law Center  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Florida State University  
International Reading Association  
International Society for Technology in Education  
Iowa State University  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials, Inc  
MENC: The National Association for Music Education  
Michigan State University  
National Alliance of Black School Educators  
National Association of Elementary School Principals  
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
National Association of Private Special Education Centers  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
National Association of State Boards of Education  
National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium  
National Association of State Directors of Special Education  
National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
National Council for the Social Studies  
National Council of Teachers of English  
National Education Association  
National PTA  
National School Boards Association  
National Science Teachers Association  
National Staff Development Council  
National Title I Association  
New York State Association of School Business Officials  
New York University  
Ohio Association of School Business Officials  
Phi Delta Kappa International  
Presidents Council, State Universities  
Q.E.D. Foundation  
School Social Work Association of America  
Service Employees International Union  
State Educational Technology Directors Association  
Stony Brook University  
Syracuse University  
Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc.  
The College Board  
United Church of Christ Justice & Witness Ministries  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin System

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Wider Opportunities for Women  
Women's College Coalition