

November 29, 2022

Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chair DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Blunt, and Ranking Member Cole:

On behalf of the 31 undersigned national, state, and local organizations, we urge Congress to fund the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant program, authorized by Title IV Part A of The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) program at \$2 billion in FY23. This block grant supports investments in safe and healthy students, well-rounded education programs, and the effective use of technology in education.

Title IV-A funds enable districts to provide a wide array of services which are critical to supporting academic recovery including: school mental and behavioral health services; efforts to promote a safe school environment; access to a well-rounded curriculum, including STEM, arts, and civics education; mentoring programs; out of school supports; and accelerated learning opportunities. Further, Title IV-A funds improve the effective use of technology in learning including supporting telehealth services and providing professional development for educators on the effective use of technology to keep children engaged in learning, whether in a classroom, hybrid, or virtual environment. Without this critical investment, many districts could be forced to choose between violence prevention programming or increasing access to AP courses. Robust investment in Title IV-A helps ensure districts are able to provide a full array of services and learning opportunities that support the whole child, and improve academic success for all students.

Title IV-A has continuously maintained bipartisan support in part because

Sincerely,

Afterschool Alliance

American Counseling Association

American Federation of School Administrators

American Heart Association

American Library Association

American Occupational Therapy Association

American Psychological Association

American School Counselor Association