

December 5, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We, the undersigned organizations and teachers, teacher leaders, principals, other schools leaders, leadership preparation faculty, and advocates, write to you **in support of funding for the School Leader Recruitment and Support Program (SLRSP)**—the only federal program specifically focused on investing in evidence-based, locally-driven strategies to strengthen school leadership in high-need schools.

We are a group of organizations and individuals who believe that all schools can become great schools if teachers, principals, and other school leaders have the preparation and ongoing support needed to put into practice the best educational strategies and approaches. We are now working with states, districts, and schools on implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

And we all know that leadership matters. More than a decade of research shows that well-prepared, well-supported principals have a huge influence on teacher practice and student success. School leaders account for 25 percent of a school's impact on student learning,ⁱ and an above-average principal can improve student achievement by 20 percentage points.ⁱⁱ Moreover, like workers in any other profession, the best teachers want to work for the best bosses. Outstanding school leaders attract and retain great educators: fully 97 percent of teachers list principal quality as critical to their retention and career decisions—*more than any other factor*.ⁱⁱⁱ And school leaders transform the lowest-performing schools, where the positive effects of strong leadership on student achievement are most pronounced.^{iv} In fact, a landmark study found “virtually no documented instances of troubled schools being turned around without intervention by a powerful leader.”^v

Authorized by ESSA with bipartisan support to strengthen the School Leadership Program (SLP), SLRSP empowers states and school districts, individually or in partnership with nonprofits or institutions of higher education, to accelerate the recruitment, preparation, support, and retention of dynamic school leaders who have a measurable, positive impact on student achievement in high-need schools. Robust investment in school leadership via SLRSP is critical to achieving the major goals of ESSA and delivering on the promise of local control: strong, sustained implementation of improvement strategies in every classroom, every year, across entire schools.

Our schools should be places where great teachers thrive and all students excel. We can reach this goal by prioritizing investments in strategies that address how our schools—not just individual classrooms, but all classrooms within a school—are organized and led. Unfortunately, school leadership has historically been overlooked and underfunded,^{vi} which has done a great disservice to teachers, students, and school communities who rely on the support and expertise of well-prepared, well-supported principals.

As the Appropriations Committees negotiate final FY 2018 spending levels, **we urge Congress to maintain funding for SLRSP** to seed innovative, evidence-based school leadership programs and partnerships.

Sincerely,

Achievement Network	National Center on Education and the Economy
Advance Illinois	National Council of Professors of Educational Administration
America Forward	National Council on Teacher Quality
American Federation of School Administrators	National Network of State Teachers of the Year
AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation	National SAM Innovation Project (NSIP)
ASCD	New Classrooms Innovation Partners
BELL (Building Educated Leaders for Life)	New Leaders
Bloomington Public School District 87	New Teacher Center
Center for Research and Reform in Education, Johns Hopkins University	New York Educator Voice Fellowship
Center for the Study of Education Policy, Illinois State University	North Park University
Chicago Public Schools	NYC Leadership Academy
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues	Ounce of Prevention Fund
Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional (CASEL)	Profound Gentlemen
Committee for Children	Public Impact
Cuddle Care, Inc.	Quincy Public Schools - District #172
Deans for Impact	Relay Graduate School of Education
Democrats for Education Reform	Results for America
DuPage Regional Office of Education	School of Education/Principal Endorsement Program, Aurora University
Educators for Excellence	Schools That Can
Governors State University	Sonoma Charter School
Hope Street Group	Stand for Children
Illinois Education Association	Success for All Foundation
Kappa Delta Pi	TASH
League of United Latin American Citizens	Teach For America
Learning Forward	Teach Plus
National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)	Teaching Matters
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)	Teaching Trust
	TNTP
	University Council for Educational Administration

And the following individual educators, education leaders, leadership preparation faculty, and advocates:

Adam Walker	Carolyn Jones	Elsie Kathleen Kane
Aja Foote	Caryn Fliegler	Emilie Wainwright
Alex Fralin	Charisse Wooding	Emily Appel
Alexandra Broin	Charlotte Burney-Tillman	Emily Crawford
Alicia Arenas	Cheryl Hill	Erin Anderson
Alicia Haller	Chien Nee	Erin Gilrein
Alison Johnson	Chris Willis	Ernest Peterson
Alison Welcher	Constance Best	Ernie Lozano
Allania Moore	Crystal Harden-Lindsey	Frank Perrone
Allison Borden	Cynthia Carver	Frederick Mohrien
Allison Nino	Dan Berebitsky	Gail Verona
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Alyssa Nickow	Danielle Lockett	Giuseppa (Josie) Carbone
Amanda Brown	Danielle Rubel	Jackie Gran
Amanda Jelsema	Dave Taylor	Jamaal Bowman
Ameenah S. Poole	David Boren	Jane Clark Lindle
Amie Cieminski	David Brown	Janisia Bennett
Amy M. Olson	David DeMatthews	Jasmine Thurmond
Andrea Hodge	Debra Wexler	Jeff Lockenvitz
Andrea JohnBaptiste	Delvin Burton	Jenna Zelenetz
Andrea L. Dixon	Demeka Simmons	Jennie Weiner
Andrea Rorrer	Derek Allen Young	Jennifer Baker
Andrew Hlavka	Donald J. Peurach	Jennifer Clayton
Andrew Saultz	Donald R. Malone	Jennifer Eusanio
Anjale Welton	Donna Carter	Jennifer Myers
Ann Courter	Donna Wood	Jessica Fyles
Ann Sundstrom Allen	Dr. Alison Taysum	Jessica Wilbanks
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Karen Skalitzky	Mary Dybdahl	Rebecca Cheung
Karen Stansberry Beard	Marytza Gawlik	Renee Ridolfi
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Katherine Bassett	Matthew Militello	Robert Donmoyer
Kathryn Wilkerson	Maysaa Barakat	Robyn Vierra
Kavish Burney	Megan McDonald	Romy Trigg-Smith
Keith Hollenbeck	Megan Tschannen-Moran	Ronald Rapatalo
Kelly Bezan	Melinda Lemke	Ronald Towns
Kelly Rick	Melissa A. Martinez	Rosalyn Andrews
Kendelle Argrette	Melissa Long	Sandra J. Citron
Kerry Moll	Michael T. Johnson	Sarah Hassebroek
Kevin Lawrence Henry, Jr., Ph.D.	Michaela Fray	Sean Allan McClung
Kevin Zimmer	Michelle Farid	Sha-Wonda Williams-Credle
Kimberly Reeve DeLong	Michelle Young	Soya Denise Moore
Kimberly Ross	Miki Bellon	Stefanie Dulak
Kristen Ehlman	Miriam D. Ezzani	Stephanie Morimoto
Laura Boling	Mohammad Hamad	Susan Gonzales
Laura Landon-Favatas	Monica Byrne-Jimenez	Susan Wiechman
Leigh E. Wallace	Nancy Ellen Masterson	Taffi Loving
Lenora Denise Taylor	Natasha Harrell-Nicks	Tanya Bloomfield
Leslie Locke	Nathern S. Okilwa	Tara Bringley
Liesl Groberg	Nicole J. White	Teresa Tanieri
Linda Kolbusz-Kosan	Nicole Spicer	Terrence Kneisel
Linda Searby	Nikki Devonee Alston	Tracy Breslin
Lissette Rua	Nina Bhatia	Valencia Koker
Liz Hollingworth	Nita Soni	Virginia Patterson
Malissa Mootoo	Pamela Gray	W. Kyle Ingle
Manuel Adrianzen	Patricia Guerra	William Florio
Marcy Reedy	Patrick Diamond	William G. Ruff
Margaret Thornton	Pauli Amanda Patterson	William T. Trent
Maria Esponda-Medina	Peter Goff	Yinying Wang
Marianna Valdez	Phyllis McCluskey-Titus	
Mark Bailey	Rachel Langlais	

ⁱ Leithwood, K., Seashore Louis, K., Anderson, S., & Wahlstrom, K. (2004). *How leadership influences student learning: A review of research for the Learning from Leadership Project*. New York, NY: The Wallace Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/Pages/How-Leadership-Influences-Student-Learning.aspx>.

ⁱⁱ Marzano, R. J., Waters, T., & McNulty, B. A. (2005). *School leadership that works: From research to results*. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

ⁱⁱⁱ Scholastic Inc. (2012). *Primary Sources: America's Teachers on the Teaching Profession*. New York, NY: Scholastic and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Retrieved from http://www.scholastic.com/primarysources/pdfs/Gates2012_full.pdf.

^{iv} Seashore Louis, K., Leithwood, K., Wahlstrom, K., & Anderson, S. (2010). *Investigating the links to improved student learning*. Washington, DC: Wallace Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/Pages/Investigating-the-Links-to-Improved-Student-Learning.aspx>.

^v Leithwood, K., Seashore Louis, K., Anderson, S., & Wahlstrom, K. (2004).

^{vi} For the past several years, more than two-thirds of districts have invested zero federal professional development funds on school leaders. Sources: U.S. Department of Education (2015). *Findings from the 2014-15 Survey on the Use of Funds Under Title II, Part A*. U.S. Department of Education (2014). *Findings from the 2013-14 Survey on the Use of Funds Under Title II, Part A*. U.S. Department of Education (2013). *Findings from the 2012-13 Survey on the Use of Funds Under Title II, Part A*. All retrieved from <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/teacherqual/resources.html>.