

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Abigail Evans, President
National Education Association

Jamie Baxter, Vice-President
Association for Career and
Technical Education

Myrna Mandlawitz, Treasurer
School Social Work Association of
America

Jonathan Fansmith, Past President
American Council on Education

Jocelyn Bissonnette,
National Association of Federally
Impacted Schools

Tina Dove,
ASCD

Noelle Ellerson
American Association of School
Administrators

Stephanie Giesecke
National Association of Independent
Colleges and Universities

Earl Hadley
American Federation of Teachers

Kimberly Jones
Council for Opportunity in
Education

Lindsay Jones
Council for Exceptional Children

Karen Lanning
The College Board

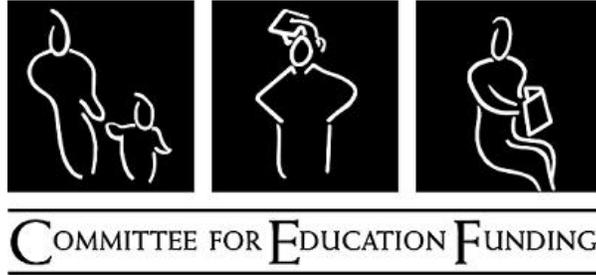
Cyndy Littlefield
Association of Jesuit Colleges and
Universities

Elizabeth Rorick
National Parent Teacher Association

Gerald Sroufe
American Educational Research
Association

Blakely Whilden
American Association of State
Colleges and Universities

Joel Packer,
Executive Director
Committee for Education Funding



April 13, 2011

Dear Representative:

The Committee for Education Funding (CEF), a coalition of more than 85 education associations and institutions from preschool to postgraduate education, is writing to express our opposition to HR 1473, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act.

We are very appreciative that this bill maintains the \$5,550 Pell maximum award and increases funding for early childhood education. We also are pleased that it rejects deep and harmful cuts from HR 1 to Head Start, Title I, School Improvement Grants, and the proposed elimination of funding for math and science partnerships, school leadership, parent information resource centers, school counseling, SEOG, the regional education labs and other programs.

However, this bill still contains significant cuts to many education programs including the elimination of several literacy programs (Striving Readers, Even Start and Literacy through School Libraries), a \$475 million cut to Teacher Quality State grants, the elimination of education technology grants, the Tech Prep program, LEAP and Byrd honors scholarships, and cuts to English Language Acquisition State Grants, career and technical education state grants, SEOG, TRIO, GEAR UP and others.

In addition, all education programs will be subject to an across-the-board cut.

Results from nine different public opinion polls since January make clear that the American public overwhelmingly opposes cutting federal spending for education programs for both K12 and higher education.

Students, schools and colleges are struggling with significant state and local budget cuts which are causing large numbers of educator layoffs and major cuts and eliminations in a range of critical education programs. These cuts are compounded by the loss of ARRA education funds. At the same time enrollments are increasing and schools and colleges are serving more students with special needs.

Thus, CEF cannot support additional education cuts which will make it harder to achieve progress on improving student achievement, closing achievement gaps and increasing high school graduation, postsecondary education attendance and college completion rates. We urge you to vote against passage of HR 1473.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Abigail C. Evans in cursive script.

Abigail Evans
President

Handwritten signature of Joel Packer in cursive script.

Joel Packer
Executive Director