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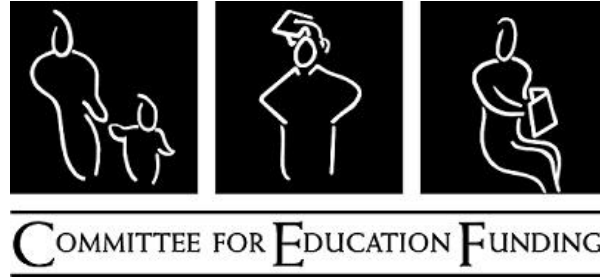
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**Joel Packer**,  
Executive Director  
Committee for Education Funding



March 1, 2011

Dear Representative:

The Committee for Education Funding (CEF), a coalition of 85 education associations and institutions from preschool to postgraduate education, is writing to express our opposition to H.J. Res 44, the Further Continuing Appropriations Amendments bill.

While CEF understands the need to responsibly reduce the federal budget deficit, this bill disproportionately cuts education programs. Out of a total of \$4.01 billion in spending cuts, \$890 million or 22.2 percent comes from Education Department programs, even though ED composes only 2.3 percent of the overall federal budget. In addition, the year-long CR, HR 1, passed by the House contains unprecedented, sweeping education cuts of \$11.55 billion from PreK to graduate education.

Among the cuts in this bill are the elimination of several important education programs including:

1. **Striving Readers (-\$250 million)**. This is the only federally-funded comprehensive literacy program that includes pre-literacy skills and reading and writing for students from birth through grade 12, giving priority to school districts serving the greatest numbers/percentages of disadvantaged students. Its elimination will set back efforts to improve literacy skills and reduce achievement gaps in reading. In addition, H.J. Res. 44 eliminates another literacy program, Even Start.
2. **Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnerships (LEAP) (-\$64 million)**. LEAP is a cost-effective program, whose current funding of \$64 million generates over \$1 billion in aid to over 1 million college students each year, more than half of whom have annual family incomes of less than \$20,000.
3. **National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (-\$10.7 million)**. NBPTS funding helps over 20,00 teachers to improve their teaching skills through national board certification.

The American public strongly opposes education cuts. At least six polls this year found strong majorities opposed to reducing federal funding for education programs, with opposition to education cuts outweighing cuts in virtually every other category of the budget.

Investments in education are investments in our children, our global competitiveness and our economic growth. H.J. Res. 44 unfairly and inappropriately places far too large a portion of its deficit reduction on important education programs and thus CEF recommends that you vote against it.

CEF letter opposing H.J. Res. 44

Sincerely,



Abigail Evans  
President



Joel Packer  
Executive Director