



COALITION *for*  
HEALTH FUNDING



June 20, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Mikulski and Harkin:

The Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce, the Coalition for Health Funding, and the Committee for Education Funding—on behalf of more than 900 organizations that earlier this year urged you to increase funding for workforce investment, health and education—offer our strong support for the Senate Appropriation Committee's discretionary allocation of \$1.058 trillion for its twelve Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 appropriations bills. In particular, we strongly support the adoption of a \$164.33 billion 302(b) allocation for the FY 2014 Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education and Related Agencies (Labor-H) Appropriations bill. These levels are consistent with the levels established by the American Taxpayer Relief Act, adopted by the Senate on a bipartisan vote of 89-8, and the FY 2014 Senate budget resolution. They are in stark contrast to the House overall discretionary level of \$967 billion, and a Labor-H allocation that is 18.6 percent below the final FY 2013 sequester level and 22.2 percent below the FY 13 pre-sequester Continuing Resolution level.

The programs and services under the jurisdiction of the Labor-H subcommittee serve a broad range of constituencies and needs, but they all share a common, fundamental goal of strengthening this nation by improving Americans' lives. Despite their profound impact on American health, educational and skills attainment, and productivity, these programs and services have been deeply cut since FY 2010. These and other discretionary programs have contributed \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts from the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution, the Budget Control Act, and the American Taxpayer Relief Act. Under sequestration, these programs have been cut even deeper. The FY 2013 cuts to these programs alone total almost \$9 billion. Cuts of this magnitude are causing real harm to tens of millions of Americans.

We strongly support your efforts to protect these domestic programs from further cuts that will have profound consequences on our nation's global competitiveness and our capacity to address the needs of the most vulnerable. Nevertheless, the Senate's efforts will be for naught if

Congress does not work together to replace sequestration with a balanced approach to deficit reduction. It is shortsighted to further cut discretionary funding in the interest of deficit reduction, and we greatly appreciate your recognition of the value of health, education, job training, and social services in improving the lives of American families and strengthening our global position. We implore Congress to work together to fix sequestration, once and for all.

If you have questions about this letter, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

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