



June 23, 2015

Dear Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

We undersigned members of the Friends of IES are writing to express our profound concerns that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies reported out an FY 2016 appropriations bill on June 17 that would dramatically cut funding for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). The bill reduces the IES budget from the current level of \$574 million to \$410 million, a difference of \$164 million, 29 percent below the FY 2015 levels. By contrast, the Friends of IES strongly supports the presidential budget request of \$676 million in FY 2016 and urges the committee to at least restore the IES budget to the current FY 2015 level of \$574 million.

The Friends of IES is a coalition of scientific associations and institutions, research and practitioner organizations that support the Institute's mission to expand fundamental knowledge and understanding of education from early childhood through higher education and the workforce; provide rigorous and relevant evidence on which to ground education practice and policy; share this information broadly; and promote knowledge utilization in policy and practice.

Since its inception during the Bush Administration in 2002, IES has grown into a world class research and development agency providing critical new research-based knowledge to educators and policy makers throughout the country. The dramatic reduction to IES funding would have a devastating impact on all components of IES including: the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), National Center for Education Research (NCER), National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER), National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (NCEE) as well as Research, Development, and Dissemination and other programs under IES's jurisdiction. Furthermore, we oppose the elimination of the Regional Educational Laboratories.

We recognize the difficult task of moving this bill forward, particularly under the restrictive budget caps. Unfortunately, this bill would curtail many of the highly valued and successful programs key to the mission of the Institute at a time when teachers, administrators, and policy makers are in need of research-based evidence to inform educational practice and policy and improve the quality of education in the United States.

An educated population and workforce is a critical component of the nation's economy, and long-term, sustained investment in IES produces results that shape the development of practices and policies that reach all students.

Thank you for considering our deep concerns about the dramatic cuts to the IES. We hope that the committee returns to the bigger conversation about the current budget caps and begin the process again with a more reasonable allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

American Educational Research Association
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of Population Centers
Center for Research and Reform in Education, Johns Hopkins University
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council for Exceptional Children
EDGE Consulting Partners
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Knowledge Alliance
Learning Disabilities Association
National Center for Learning Disabilities
Population Association of America
Society for Research in Child Development
Success for All Foundation
WestEd