



www.nsba.org
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November 16, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Our Mission
Working with and
through our State
Associations, NSBA
Advocates for Equity
and Excellence in
Public Education
through School Board
Leadership

Office of Advocacy

Miranda Beard
President

***Re: Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies Appropriations bill***

Thomas J. Gentzel
Executive Director & CEO

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Cochran and Vice
Chairwoman Mikulski:

Lucy Gettman
Chief Advocacy Officer

On behalf of 90,000 school board members responsible for governing the country's 14,000 local school districts, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) urges swift passage of a final appropriations measure for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2017 that will sustain Prek-12 education investments in our nation's 50 million public school students. The fiscal stability provided by such a measure is critical as our school districts continue to implement the landmark Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), address the special needs of students under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), advance innovation and career-readiness through Career and Technical Education, expand high-quality early learning opportunities, and much more.

NSBA acknowledges the respective FY2017 appropriations bills (H.R. 5926 and S. 3040) reported by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for the Departments of Labor, Health & Human Services, Education and Related Agencies. We also appreciate the provision in H.R.5325--the *Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act*—which provides continuity of resources for school districts educating students through the Impact Aid program that benefits our federally connected students.

Without H.R. 5325, Impact Aid funding would have expired, thereby affecting more than 1,000 school districts and their students, such as those whose parents/guardians are enlisted in the Armed Forces and those who reside on Indian trust lands.

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As H.R. 5926 and S. 3040 would provide targeted increases to Title I grants for disadvantaged students, special education and other key education programs this fiscal year, we write to express strong support for a final appropriations bill that maximizes investments in these priorities and avoids any further rescissions.

We look forward to working with you as you complete the work of the 114th Congress and negotiate a final appropriations measure for FY2017. Your leadership and bipartisan support for these investments critical to our school districts providing a well-rounded curriculum for our students that helps prepare them for success in life is very much appreciated by our school boards and their communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Gentzel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T".

Thomas J. Gentzel
Executive Director & CEO