



National Title I Association

a National Association of State Title I Directors

September 18, 2017

Representative Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Room H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Room H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

As education professionals dedicated to improving opportunities for the nation's disadvantaged students, we at the National Title I Association write to you in support of continued funding for the Supporting Effective Instruction grants under Title II, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Though our focus as educators – and as an organization – is Title I of the same statute, we know that improving education for disadvantaged students depends heavily on recruiting, retaining, and developing outstanding teachers. Many of our States have struggled with this in recent years as low salaries, increasing requirements, reduced opportunities, and other considerations have driven teachers out of the profession or discouraged young people from becoming teachers. Unfortunately, the President's proposed fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget and the omnibus appropriations bill recently passed by the House of Representatives suggest eliminating funding for the Title II, Part A program. We urge you to reject this proposal and instead fully fund Title II in order to provide our teachers with the resources they need.

The professional development funding of Title II is vital to ensuring that our teachers are prepared for the classroom and that they continue to be up to date on the most recent skills, strategies, and information. It helps teachers, paraprofessionals, and school leaders develop new skills and implement new strategies to support the academic interventions which are required in other portions of ESEA.

Should Congress choose not to fund Title II in the coming years, schools and districts would face a difficult dilemma. In order to ensure that our teachers are ready to teach and are up to date on recent instructional strategies, research, and technology – not to mention the interventions they are expected to assist in carrying out – our schools and districts would be forced to pull funds from other important student supports. This would mean reducing the quality of professional development provided to classroom teachers and other education professionals. Districts would also most likely be forced to

eliminate some staff and teaching positions, increasing class sizes and reducing the amount of individual attention students – including those most at risk of failure – receive. Finally, schools and districts could be forced to use other sources of funds to conduct the bare minimum of professional development needed, eliminating other programs and resources that benefit high-need students.

As you work to develop appropriations legislation for the remainder of FY 2018 and beyond, we strongly urge you to preserve funding for Title II of ESEA to ensure that all our students have access to high-quality, well-prepared teachers.

Please contact Bob Harmon, Chief Executive Officer of the National Title I Association, at bob.harmon@titlei.org should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Radke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Radke" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Radke, President
National Title I Association