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November 18, 2015

Dear Senator:

On behalf of ASCD's 125,000 educator members, I urge you to provide the largest possible allocation to federal education funding in the omnibus appropriations bill being developed by your committee. The share of the federal budget allocated to education has been cut by more than \$80 billion since 2010. These cuts have significantly impeded the government's obligation to provide all of our nation's children access to a quality K-12 education and to prepare them for colleges, careers, and productive adult lives.

The Bipartisan Budget Agreement passed by both the House and Senate in October lifted most of the sequester caps for nondefense discretionary programs (NDD) for FY16 and FY17, enabling the restoration of cuts and programs eliminated since 2010. This is a positive step and a recognition of the importance of investing in the NDD programs that support health, research, education, social services, and workforce development. Such investments increase jobs and improve our country's economic growth and global competitiveness. At a time when more than 50 percent of our children are living in poverty, it is imperative that the federal government amplify its efforts to ensure they have every opportunity for future success. Education is an integral part of the national effort to reduce poverty and mitigate its effects on our children and families.

ASCD is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization comprised of professional educators from all levels and subject areas—superintendents, central office staff, supervisors, principals, teachers, professors of education, and school board members. Our members have experienced firsthand the effects of the state and local budget cuts of recent years that have resulted in the loss of over 300,000 public school jobs since the start of the recession. At least 30 states provided less funding per student in the 2014-15 school year than before the recession.

Congress has a historic opportunity to reverse the trend of disinvesting in public education and instead demonstrate its commitment to our children's future—and the future of our country—by increasing funding allocation to federal education programs. We thank you for your leadership and urge you to increase appropriations for education in order to grow the economy, create jobs, and improve U.S. competitiveness and innovation.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Griffith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Griffith
Director of Government Relations

