MEMORANDUM

TO: ASAHP Members
FROM: Kristen Truong
DATE: February 27, 2020

February 27, 2020, 10:00 AM, 2358-C Rayburn
[HEARING LINK]

Overview:
The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing on “Fiscal 2021 Budget Request for the Department of Education”. Career and technical education garnered bipartisan support, especially for the nearly $900 million increase in the President’s Budget. Secretary DeVos would like to work with Congress to create a definition for “in demand fields” and how CTE would be part of a short-term Pell program.

Rep. Moolenaar and Ranking Member Cole were supportive of the Second Chance Pell; Rep. Moolenaar noted that community colleges in his district are interested in participating. Secretary DeVos hopes to make Second Chance Pell a permanent program but believes Congress needs to authorize the program, which is why there was no line item in the budget for it. Republicans would also like to see Federal Work Study programs collaborate with the private sector to allow students to work in their field of study, such as teaching or health professions. Rep. Bustos was particularly concerned about the budget’s proposal to eliminate Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

Secretary DeVos highlighted the College Score Card and myStudentAid app as ways for students to gain a better understanding on how much college may cost, if they will need loans, how they could pay it off, and have FAFSA more accessible. Secretary DeVos discussed the Department’s proposal to cap graduate student loan amounts and cap the amount for parents.

Both sides of the aisle did not agree with the Department’s decision to consolidate GEAR UP and TRIO into a state block grant. The budget proposes to combine 29 elementary and secondary education programs into a $19.4 billion state block grant program. There were contentious disagreements surrounding charter schools, including whether they provide better academic education for children and what level of accountability they are being held to.

Opening Statements:
Subcommittee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) [Full Statement]
Good morning, Secretary Devos. Welcome to the Subcommittee. As I was reviewing the budget materials, Madame Secretary, this much was clear to me. You are seeking to privatize public education. Instead, we need to be moving towards expanding public policies like early childhood education that we know help students to succeed. We see this in other countries around the globe. They are not shrinking public support; they are expanding it.

Contrary to your claims, the nation’s public education system, which 90 percent of our children attend, has witnessed significant progress for all groups of students over the last 30 years. We know we face significant challenges in assisting the kids that come into our system in education districts where they experience poverty and exposure to violence, often resulting in trauma.

The administration’s own data has shown how privatization has let down students. The Trump administration evaluated the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program and found that vouchers had a statistically significant negative impact on the mathematics achievement of impacted students. Previous multi-sector studies using NAEP data have found that no student achievement scores for children in private schools were higher than those of children in public schools by any statistically significant degree. You would cut GEAR UP, which prepares low-income, middle school students for careers and college, by $465 million; cut TRIO by $140
million; eliminate the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program; eliminate Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants; flat fund the Pell Grants; and risk exacerbating the financial challenges or rural districts by converting rural formula grants to a block grant.

I am supportive of the recognition of career and technical education, ($680 million proposed increase) for CTE State grants. Although I am disappointed that Adult Education State Grants are left with level funding. And, with regard to Charter Schools, there is a place for them. They have a role in the education system. However, concerns remain around issues of accountability and transparency, which to this point they have not been forthcoming. As I have said again and again, I believe Charter Schools ought to be held to the same rigor.

So, I look forward to our discussion today.

Subcommittee Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK)

Thank you very much, Madame Chairman. I want to tell you this is my favorite time of the year when I get to spend so much time with you and this committee here. And we're gonna have dinner tonight and it's always a delight, it honestly is, a big exchange of ideas and more cooperation than we tend to get credit for.

I've got one of the most robust career tech systems as anyplace in the country throughout Oklahoma and certainly in my district. And I was particularly pleased with the number of proposals that you made in that regard. As you know, I'm a strong supporter of the career and technical education. And I'm proud that my own state of Oklahoma is leading the way in the innovative models for delivering cutting edge skills that can lead to good paying rewarding careers for students who do not wish to pursue a four-year liberal arts degree. I'm looking forward to asking you more questions about the substantial increases in your budget that your budget proposes for these programs this year.

I also want to recognize your proposal to expand Pell grants to students enrolled in short-term programs that offer a credential in high demand. These opportunities offer high payment employment in a variety of fields needed. Interesting to me how many times we've had, when we do member testimony, members come here and specifically push the need for career and technical education, both in terms of job opportunities and talking to their employers in terms of needed skills. So, I think you've really focused on a key area here.

I've spoken, again, to small business owners, other members of Congress who believe it's time to make Pell grants available to individuals for enrollment in certificate programs. And I applaud you for putting that on the table for us to consider. I actually agree with my friend, the chairman, I'm particularly concerned about the proposal to move the successful TRIO program from a competitive grant model to the formula grants. I'm also concerned about the proposal to consolidate several minority serving institution's funding into a single string.

I also would like to acknowledge your proposal to address limitations in the student aid program. Establishing federal student aid as a separate organization is an issue I think it's worth thinking about. Really it is much more of an authorizing function than we're probably equipped to handle on this committee. But, I do support your efforts to streamline and create a more user focused system for student borrowers.

I tend to support block grants to states and freeing school districts from the bureaucracy involved with administering dozens of small separate federal programs, but I do have some concerns that consolidating some programs, such as the charter school program, could have a negative consequence on the very students we hope to benefit by these proposals. Some states are welcoming to charter schools and others not. I worry a little bit about the public sector taking money that we want to try and see these innovative things.

So, I look forward to working with my friend once again and craft a budget that balances our many priorities and invests in our country's people and its future. I look forward to your testimony today, Madame Chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time—or Madame Secretary, and I yield back to you, the chairman.

Full Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) [Full Statement]
I thank Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole for holding this hearing and welcome Secretary DeVos before the subcommittee. Without fail, your vision hurts our students and their families. Like every previous year, we will reject this outrageous proposal.

You propose eliminating 41 programs and cutting education funding overall by $6.2 billion. The Department of Education’s mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access. Secretary DeVos, your budget is clearly on a different mission—one that shirks accountability to our students and taxpayers.

Your budget proposal has eliminated $16.3 billion investment in Title I schools – this crucial support for students in high-poverty schools. You propose eliminating Full Service Community Schools. In my district, Thomas Edison Elementary School in Port Chester was among the first in the country to implement the Full-Service Community School model, and their success showed that integrating academics, social services, and community engagement improves student learning, strengthens families, and empowers communities.

The budget request eliminates the English Language Acquisition grant program, which is vital for combatting inequality by improving outcomes for English language learners. Working families count on afterschool programs, so they can go to work knowing their child is safe and learning, but your budget request eliminates this funding, too.

More than half of Americans live in a childcare desert, and that includes the one in five college students who are parents. On-campus childcare programs, like the Virginia Marx Children’s Center at Westchester Community College, help student parents successfully pursue degrees. But you would cut funding for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program by nearly 72 percent.

Our students deserve better, and I sincerely hope your response to our questions will address these concerns.

**Witness Testimony**
The Honorable Betsy DeVos, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education [Full Testimony]

**Q&A**
Other issues discussed by the Committee were unequal treatment/discipline of children based on their race, Education Freedom Scholarships, discrimination of LGBTQ students, sexual violence on campus, e-cigarettes, and the Department’s plan to prepare for the coronavirus.

**Subcommittee Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK):** I'm really excited about your Pell grant proposal and your additional investment in career and technical education. What you actually say that we would give these grants to provide credentials in "in demand fields". How would you define in demand? What would actually be covered? Would all the programs or, let's say, a duly recognized state career and tech, be covered or do you have some sort of selectivity in mind?

**Secretary DeVos:** Well, our proposal really seeks to work with Congress to determine what the definition around those programs, and the extent to which they would be a part of a short-term Pell program. I know it varies by region.

**Subcommittee Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK):** I actually find in my state honestly quite often young people--or not so young-- coming for additional technical training, they end up with a high-paying job faster usually than somebody coming out of a four-year education. We get a lot of questions about this because a lot of the students that go to these facilities are comparatively low income, and just the cost of college or the idea of assuming the debt is often associated with that, to them, doesn't make sense. This really does. Now, when I look at TRIO, for instance, it's produced over 5 million college graduates. With GEAR UP, a lot of families where nobody's going to college before really are not in a very good position, sometimes, to counsel their own kids and prepare them. So, explain to me again the advantages you would see in the consolidation and the movement to formula grants as opposed to competitive grants in this area?

**Secretary DeVos:** I totally agree that these programs are beneficial and effective for many students. Our proposal does seek to move GEAR UP into the TRIO program and block grant it to the states. I think, coupled with our proposal to block grant the elementary and secondary education funding of the 29 different programs,
and again, provide a lot more flexibility at the state and local level, the answer for one district might look quite different than an answer for the other district.

**Subcommittee Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK):** You’ve been a great champion of charter schools. I think if you block grant these to states, a lot of the money that has been set aside specifically for charters, honestly, is apt to be diverted into the public system. These are more experimental or these are a little bit more outside the “mainstream”. So, I've gone over my time, but just briefly, do you have that concern?

**Secretary DeVos:** I totally support charter schools and we need many more of them. There are a million families on the waitlist for charter schools across the country. I actually view our consolidation and block grant proposal, as one that is additive and positive for charters. I've talked with a number of governors about the block grant concept, and they're very excited about it.

**Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI):** First of all, on academic performance we know on charter schools about 1/6 does better than public schools, about half are about the same. But, 2/6 perform worse than public schools on academic performance. When you look at charter schools there was a report last year that said 1,000 charter school program grants were given out by the Department of Education, were given to schools that never opened or later closed because of mismanagement, poor performance or fraud. And in another report just last December said it's actually worse than that. It was 2,127 schools out of 5,286 that actually never opened or failed, 40.5% failure rate. So, I guess my question on this terrible failure rate we have in charter schools that you're still advocating for, just a yes or no, do you think charter schools who received federal funding should be allowed to use those funds to purchase private jets?

**Secretary DeVos:** It's not a yes or no question. The report that you referenced has been totally debunked as propaganda. There is no funding going to charter schools that would even address something like that. Charter schools are public schools.

**Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI):** First, the Second Chance Pell. I think one of the high points of Congress working with the Administration has been to look at prison reform and to help those who have been in prison come back into the community and contribute. Could you talk a little bit about your plans going forward? I know there's interest in community colleges in my area and participating in this.

**Secretary DeVos:** This is an area where there is broad- support and a lot of great evidence. I've had the opportunity to visit three different prisons (Tulsa Community College in Oklahoma) and see students, mostly young men, graduating with Associate's degrees, with certificate program recognition, some of them completing their high school requirements. But, it was a thrill to be there and I think there's so much promise with making a Second Chance Pell program a permanent one that is going to provide hope and opportunity for returning incarcerated individuals and give them a really hopeful future.

**Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI):** I know the Federal Work Study proposals that you have really are aimed at inviting the private sector to participate more, and I understand there's 190 institutions that would be invited to participate in a pilot program. I know in one of my areas, Michigan College is interested in participating in that. Could you comment on that briefly?

**Secretary DeVos:** Well, we think that there's a real opportunity to help students get much more relevant work experience while they're attending college and in an FWS program. If they are doing student teaching perhaps or clinicals in a health profession or perhaps it's in a business that has a relevance with the program they're taking in their college. We think extending this opportunity and helping students get really relevant, almost apprenticeship-like experience while they're in school studying is an important step in the direction of helping students succeed.

**Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI):** As parents, everyone's concerned about the higher cost of college education when you see the debt that students are taking out and then just the burden that places on them in the future. Can you comment about just what the administration can do to help alleviate the high cost of education but also the student loan debt?

**Secretary DeVos:** We have taken important steps administratively to add a lot of light to what students can access through the college score card. Students can go and look up an institution and then go down to the field of study or program, find out what it's going to cost to attend that program and complete, and then importantly, what their first year earning potential is after that. They can compare between schools. We've put the FAFSA form on the myStudentAid mobile app. We're continuing to add more and more information for students to model what their debt and what their student loan debt would mean and how they could pay off and have real-time information for that right on their app.
**Subcommittee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT):** With regard to charter schools, may I add that we held a hearing last year on charter schools. The OIG raised issues that we need to examine, including findings that states mismanaged charter school closures and that the Department failed to provide adequate guidance or oversight on the issue. We have appropriated serious money, more than $400 million last year alone. We need to conduct oversight.

**Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI):** On this charter school, I just would ask the Chair to consider that charter schools, many have different missions. Some charter schools have the mission of educating adjudicated youth, and so the idea that we're going to start comparing, you know, high standard education with educating adjudicated youth and somehow evaluate them the same, that's a very different mission.

**Subcommittee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT):** The Office of the Inspector General at a public hearing that we had in this room last year claimed that there were serious difficulties. We have to look at that. We have to ask the department about that.

**Subcommittee Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK):** I have zero problem, because I agree with my friend, Ms. Lee. We asked for a report, we ought to get it. Nothing wrong with that. Anybody that thinks the tone was appropriate toward a Secretary, it was not. As Chairwoman of this Committee, I don't think I every addressed anybody in the previous Administration the way I heard the Secretary addressed here, ever.

**Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL):** The numbers that we have for the CDC show that, back in 2011, we had 1.5% of our high schoolers were using E cigarettes. Now, just last year 2019, we're at 27.5% so, about, you know, a third of our high school students are now doing this. It's just alarming that's why call it an epidemic. At middle school, we are now at about 10 1/2% of our middle schoolers. At roundtables in my congressional district in downstate Illinois, a school resource officer said that there was third-graders that were doing this. Kids can put it in watches, they clothing, or fake jump drives. That's why we wrote a piece of legislation out of my office called the Resources to Prevent Youth Vaping (HR5721). It is part of a package of bills that we'll be voting on the floor tomorrow. Is Department of Education is coordinating with CDC to make sure that we have information that we can get out to our parents, teachers, and school nurses?

**Secretary DeVos:** I know that there have been participations in task forces. I'd be happy to check on the extent to which those are happening and get back with you on that.

**Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL):** We were just with Secretary Azar yesterday, but I think working together will just be absolutely critical to help address this. Switching gears, PSLF has a proposed cut of $50 million. Teacher Quality Partnership Grant Program has a proposed cut of $50 million. The funding of the Supporting Effective Educator Development Grants, proposed cut of $80 million. Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants, cut of $2.1 billion.

**Secretary DeVos:** A number of the programs that you cited are actually the ones that we have proposed to include in the block grant and would actually be very appropriate in your case and in your district if there is a drastic shortage, the district could target more of those resources and have the flexibility to use more of them for programs that would address the teacher shortage issue, teacher retention, teacher development, and in fact, give them a lot more flexibility than the current scenario.

**Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL):** How will these block grants help specifically recruit, retain, and fill all of these vacancies in a very, very rural congressional district?

**Secretary DeVos:** Well, what it would do is allow for the districts to prioritize what portions of these 29 different programs would be most effective and most important for the needs in their district to meet the needs of the most disadvantaged students. These would be block granted to the state and then 90% of them would go out directly to the districts under the Title I accountability and formulation so, all of the accountability provisions are there.

**Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA):** I'm a big supporter of the Running Start programs and would like to see the department support them. I just wanted to say thank you for the increase and the focus on career and technical education. We should not sell students down the river that you have to go to a four-year liberal arts school, and that's what success is. Because we all know, if you've looked at all in life, that is not the only definition of success. In fact, I know a lot of people who are happy and fulfilled, have good living wage jobs with full benefits and are able to provide for their families on a career in a technical type of education track. So, thank you for the emphasis on that.

**Secretary DeVos:** Well, the president and myself and this administration are really committed to advancing that and supporting multiple pathways for adult success.
Full Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY): I mentioned the full service community schools before. I think that they are so critical to bringing together health, social support, family community engagement, early childhood development opportunities to really help students and their families thrive. Yet, you propose eliminating dozens of K through 12 programs, including community schools. We came together on a bipartisan basis in this Congress to authorize the full service community school program in 2015 because we know its value in the district. First of all, I'd like to know have you ever visited a full service community school?

Secretary DeVos: I visited many schools; maybe one of them has been termed that. It's inaccurate to say that we have proposed eliminating these programs. We have proposed rolling them all up into a block grant. Your example of the school that you cited and admire is exactly why we should consider the block grant proposal because it would allow schools and districts in your state to actually expand on those and target those resources in that direction if that's the right answer for the students in that district or in that region. It would give a lot more flexibility to states and communities, not eliminating anything, but putting it in one big pool.

Full Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY): But, less money.

Secretary DeVos: Well, the request is at the level that it is. You are the appropriators. You'll decide at what level to fund.

Full Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY): You're decreasing the amount of money in the pot? So that you're making schools really compete against each other for these dollars. So, I'm hoping as we go through the budget we will increase those dollars so we can sustain programs like this. And I think you're being interested in visiting some of them, those schools. I'd be happy to give you a tour if you come up to Westchester. Now, after school program, your budget eliminates funding for after school programs.

Secretary DeVos: No, it includes it in the block grant. You're the appropriators so you decide at what level to fund it. But, I think the important thing is the proposal to put all of them together in a block grant and allow for states and local districts to make decisions on what programs are most effective and what is going to work best to meet the needs of the most vulnerable students in that district.

Full Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY): With less money, I get it. But, let me just say this because I think it's important and you probably know it. The amount of federal funds going to districts is usually about 10 percent. I don't know if it's—

Secretary DeVos: It's less than five.

Full Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY): So, you're saying putting all these programs in a pot, decreasing the fund, everything's gonna be fine. You're saying we're the appropriators, but if you are the Secretary of Education your opinion is valued. And it disappoints me that you would take all these good programs and say put them in a pot and then okay, decrease the dollars. But, we'll move on because it's almost completed.

Full Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY): Another favorite program of mine, maybe this is in the pot too, but I think it's really worth your seeing is the CCAMPIS program. More than one in five college students is a parent. For those with a young child accessing childcare on campus can really make all the difference. And the struggle to get good childcare is reality, frankly, for a growing number of college students.

Secretary DeVos: I am aware of it. And I know what our budget proposal has advanced, but I also know that the HHS budget really contains the block and the increased funding around childcare. This is certainly a priority of the Administration.

Full Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY): The $3 million cut you proposed were to take place programs like this would disappear because the locals have the major responsibility. And our work is invaluable and our money is invaluable to supporting their efforts.

Secretary DeVos: Like I said, HHS has the bulk of the childcare budget proposal funds. And that's where the Administration has put the priority around childcare.

Subcommittee Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK): I have some questions on charter schools I'd like to submit him for the record. I do have some concerns on what would happen to the money that we've gone so far. Second area that I have enormous sympathy with you in terms of this whole student loan problem. I was very happy when we moved away from the loan guarantee approach, we sort of kept us out of your bailiwick, and we have really saddled you with an enormous problem and under resourced the problem, frankly, for a number of years. I'm not sure we really have the power to do much here. I mean it's really been authorizing function. So, your thoughts would be most welcome.
Secretary DeVos: Sure, well as I mentioned earlier, I mean, it's a very large and I think we spend a lot of time talking about the loans and the debt that students are taking on. Not quite as much time challenging why the cost of higher education continues to skyrocket, and you know, there's a lot of theory around that. But our budget proposal does suggest capping off the amount that graduate students can take out in student loans through the federal government and capping out the amount for more importantly parents. We know that there have been all too many parents that have taken out loans--greater than they are able to really afford, and Social Security being garnished as a result.

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA): Now, Madam Secretary, let me ask you about the budget as it relates to expanding Pell grants for incarcerated students. You said he supported that, but I can't find in your budget request any line item for that. Have you estimated how much it would cost, and do you plan to request funding for this?

Secretary DeVos: Well, we have made the request to have Congress consider a permanent expansion because it's not a program other than a pilot through the Department. Currently, there isn't a specific piece of budgetary guidance to suggest with it, so.

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA): So, what do we need to do to get you to do that, to submit a line item for us?

Secretary DeVos: Well, I think Congress needs to act and make Second Chance Pell a program.

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA): So we have to authorize it?

Secretary DeVos: It's currently just an experimental program through our, you know, our authorities and the department.

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA): I see. Okay, so we'll work on that. Let me ask you about HBCUs because this budget doesn't increase funding for HBCUs except those that are in the opportunity zones, which leaves out about 50 percent of the HBCUs. So, let me ask you about that because we know that the president has touted his support for HBCUs, yet we see a budget that level of funds our historically black colleges.

Secretary DeVos: Well, I would just say that that is definitely an indication of continued support for the important role HBCUs play. But the level of funding for the remainder of the HBCU related programs is also an indication of the priority that we have placed on that. In a $150 million-plus up for HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions for STEM-related programs and opportunity zones. Which opportunity zones are all across the country rural and urban areas.

Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA): Are there opportunities in the department with regard to encouraging students to participate in dual credit programs like Running Start? That's one way I think we're going to help them with their college costs.

Secretary DeVos: Well, I think our proposal is to dramatically increase funding for career and technical education, and I think importantly this comes at a time when states have been writing their Perkins plans and are about getting ready to implement it. I visited a lot of schools that have fledgling dual enrollment programs, many that want to have many more and expand them dramatically. I expect that that's going to continue to be a growing reality, and certainly those places that are being forward-leaning and recognizing the opportunities for their students are going to get that right.

Closing Statements

Subcommittee Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK)

I really want to applaud you on this career and technical education initiative, both the additional money for the institutions in question that you've proposed. I think it's a very wise investment. So, you're willingness to look at the Pell grant as an extension. We all want kids that want to get college educations to have that opportunity. It's one of the reasons why I'm fierce about TRIO and Gear Up and some of these other programs. But, I also recognize the vast majority of young people aren't gonna go for a four year college. They either don't want to or that's just not the right approach for them. And I think sometimes we forget about them a lot. And then this proposal I think you're actually putting the focus on folks that are too often forgotten. And you and the president will be committed for that because he's been a leader. He actually took things like the Apprentice Program, which was a good Obama proposal and put more money into that.

While I was particularly pleased with your proposal on Second Chance Bill – I've been to Tulsa Community College and seen that program. They do outstanding work. I'm gonna wrestle with this student loan problem because I see it as a real issue. I'm glad you mentioned the telling point about the cost of college as well. This isn't just a matter of the federal government we have a lot of private institutions that need to think very carefully.
about how they counsel students and what they encourage them to do and the advice sometimes they don't
give them as to what the appropriate level of debt, if any, should be for them.

And then, finally, the administration of this. It frustrated me when I was Chairman. I'm sure it frustrates our
Chairman, the amount of resources that are getting put into looking after this. Again, my personal views we've
made a big mistake. We got out the loan guarantee business and dumped this over to the Department of
Education and asking you to take on a mission that really, in my view, probably should not be your mission. So,
your thought as you grapple with this are very valuable.

Madame Chairman, I'm gonna thank you. You're always a great working partner. And I appreciate the way that
you manage our committee and we occasionally have differences. But, we very seldom have deep
disagreements about the task in front of us. So, I look forward to working with you as we craft this budget and
the other budgets that are under our jurisdiction. And I know, as always, we'll find a lot more common ground
than we do differences. Can't commit to vote for your first bill, but if we can come to an agreement in
conference, I think we can do it again. Thank you.

Subcommittee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
I want to thank the gentleman and he's really been extraordinary positive. It's a working experience. But, it's a
friendship. For that I am deeply, deeply grateful because it's that friendship that allows us to get the business
of the country done. And that's why we're all here. And we believe in that.

The couple of comments that my colleagues have made with regard this notion that states can if they're taking
public money in whatever form and they discriminate that that will be up to the states. We are not gonna stand
by and watch states discriminate against our children in terms of proceeding to get an education. Let me
mention Puerto Rico if I can. They have been really dealing with trying to recover from earthquakes, from all
kinds of disasters, still from Hurricane Maria. I have been told, and will look into this, that kids are going to
school in tents. I urge the administration to support the House supplemental bill. It's really imperative. We are
dealing with both education. And we are dealing with mental health issues regarding these children. And I think
we all believe we have a moral responsibility in this area.

One of this nation's most urgent charges to address the issues and the gap between English learners and their
native English speaking peers as a condition of receiving Title Three, states and districts need to provide
effective language instruction programs, professional development for teachers of English learners, parents
and family, community engagement. From the testimony, it appears that you look at the Elementary and
Secondary Education Act and you see a law full of formula grants that place burdens on states, however, I look
at the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, I see a law full of vital protections for the most vulnerable
students in our nation's care, English learners, homeless children and youth, migrant children, children in the
juvenile justice system, and the list goes on.

This year, defending the proposal to eliminate, we can have all the words possible, but we eliminate 41
programs. I am, quite frankly, tired of just saying $40 million in a cut here, $26 million in a cut there. It is about
the consequences. I think we, both from your perspective and from ours, have to be understanding of that
opportunity to achieve your dreams and your aspirations through education are being curtailed. And in
particular for the most vulnerable of our kids. And kids who are enrolled districts, kids who are in high poverty
areas that won't get the kind of attention that they need. And I do believe it's a moral responsibility to utilize all
the power of the federal government to engage with these communities and the students. My hope is that we
will come forward with a bill in the education area that will meet their needs and we can do that on a bipartisan
basis. I think you for being here and thank you for the work that you do on behalf of the country.