August 20, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
United States House of Representatives
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
United States House of Representatives
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Shelby and Leahy and Representatives Frelinghuysen and Lowey,

The Children’s Budget Coalition is made up of over 70 children-focused organizations who collectively are dedicated to ensuring that our nation’s leaders prioritize children in the federal budget process. We are writing to urge you to prioritize children as you negotiate a conference agreement on 302(b) allocations for the House and Senate Fiscal Year 2019 spending bills.

Children represent nearly a quarter of America’s population, but for years have received a declining share of the federal budget, driven in part by sequestration and Non-Defense Discretionary (NDD) spending caps. Thankfully, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (PL 115-123) provided relief from NDD caps, giving Congress the opportunity to make much-needed investments in the many discretionary programs that serve children and families in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 (PL 115-141.)

We ask that you enable continued investment in children by providing the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor-H), Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD), Commerce, Justice and Science (CJS), and Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration (Ag-FDA) spending bills with robust and proportionate funding allocations during conference. These spending bills support the overwhelming majority of discretionary programs benefitting children and families. Inadequate 302(b) allocations within these spending bills often mean that an increase in one children’s program comes at the expense of another, complementary initiative. Thus, we urge you to adopt the Senate’s allocations for Labor-H and CJS, and the House’s
allocation for Ag-FDA and T-HUD. These higher levels of funding are necessary if Congress hopes to truly invest in children in Fiscal Year 2019.

Signed,

First Focus Campaign for Children
1,000 Days
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Afterschool Alliance
Boys & Girls Club of America
Bread for the World
Campaign for Youth Justice
Child Care Aware of America
Child Welfare League of America
Children’s Health Fund
Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning
Committee for Children
Communities in Schools
Early Care and Education Consortium
Every Child Matters
Family Focused Treatment Association
March of Dimes
MomsRising
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
National Network for Youth
National WIC Association
National Writing Project
Partnership for America’s Children
Save the Children Action Network
Voices for Progress
YMCA of the USA
Youth Development Institute of Puerto Rico