



September 2, 2025

Congressman Robert Aderholt  
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt,

On behalf of the National Parents Union (NPU), representing families across the country who are deeply invested in the success of America's children, we write today to express our serious concerns regarding the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill now before the Committee for markup. While we are grateful for the areas of the bill that demonstrate a commitment to pro-family, pro-child policies, we are alarmed by the magnitude of proposed cuts that would undermine the educational opportunities and long-term success of millions of students.

#### **Areas of Concern**

Most troubling is the proposed **26% cut to Title I-A**, a cornerstone program serving the most vulnerable children in our nation. This cut—unanticipated given that the Trump Administration proposed level funding and the Senate proposed a \$50M increase—would devastate the ability of high-poverty schools to provide the resources and support their students need. Combined with declining enrollment and the loss of ESSER dollars, these funding cuts will expedite unprecedented layoffs, program cuts, and school closures – particularly for rural schools.

The bill also proposes eliminating several critical programs that provide essential supports to students and educators alike:

- **Supporting Effective Instruction grants**, which build teacher capacity and ensure classrooms are led by well-prepared, effective educators.



- **English Language Acquisition grants**, which are vital to the success of multilingual learners.
- **Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG)**, which help low-income college students bridge financial gaps.
- **Teacher Quality Partnerships**, which strengthen teacher pipelines.
- **Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)**, which allows student parents—many of them mothers—to access affordable child care while completing their education.

Additionally, the bill slashes federal work-study by **37%**, severely limiting opportunities for students to afford higher education through meaningful work experience. While the Trump Administration proposed cuts of 80%, we are grateful the Senate maintained level funding—and we strongly urge the House to follow suit.

We are equally concerned about cuts to the federal infrastructure necessary to protect and advance students' rights.

- **30% cut to the Department of Education's personnel and operations.**
- **35% cut to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR)**, which would undermine the federal government's ability to investigate and address inequities in our schools.
- **Elimination of funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting**, a \$595 million reduction that would strip away educational resources relied on by families and educators nationwide.



These proposals represent a retreat from our collective responsibility to ensure every child—regardless of zip code, background, or circumstance—has access to the high-quality education they deserve. We urge members of the committee to follow their Senate colleague’s bipartisan commitment to funding the Office for Civil Rights (OCR).

### **Positive Provisions Worth Celebrating**

We do, however, wish to commend the Committee for maintaining:

- The maximum Pell Grant award at **\$7,395**, ensuring that low-income students continue to have access to higher education.
- Level funding for **TRIO and GEAR UP**, proven programs that expand college access and success for first-generation and low-income students.
- **\$4 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program**, a modest but meaningful increase that helps families meet basic household needs.
- **\$12.3 billion for Head Start**, which continues to serve as a bedrock of early childhood education and support for families.

These commitments matter, and we are grateful that the Committee has recognized the importance of maintaining them.

### **The Path Forward**

Taken as a whole, however, the bill falls far short of what American families and children need. We urge you to follow the Senate’s bipartisan example and craft an appropriations package that prioritizes children, families, and the future of our nation. Pro-family, pro-child policy should be the foundation of our federal investment strategy—not an afterthought sacrificed to budgetary maneuvering.

Families across this country are watching closely. They know that investments in education, early learning, child care, and opportunity programs are investments in the American Dream. We respectfully call on you and your colleagues to reject harmful cuts and instead advance a budget that truly reflects bipartisan values and the urgent needs of our children.

Sincerely,  
Ariel Taylor Smith

Senior Director of Policy & Action  
National Parents Union