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Celebrating 40 Years
1969 – 2009

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Edward Kealy,
Executive Director
Committee for Education Funding

July 15, 2009

Dear Appropriations Committee Member:

The Committee for Education Funding (CEF), a non-partisan coalition of more than eighty organizations reflecting the broad spectrum of the education community, strongly urges you to make increased education investments in the FY 2010 Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill, and build upon the unprecedented commitment Congress and President Obama made in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The FY 2010 bill must prevent students and schools from falling down the steep “funding cliffs” resulting from the withdrawal of nearly \$100 billion in federal education funding over the next several years. The president’s budget request level funds and cuts education funding for millions of students in nearly 100 vital federal programs such as the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, TRIO and GEAR UP, among many others.

It also erodes the resources for the education of the disadvantaged under Title I, and continues the unfortunate trend of failing to provide the promised funds for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. CEF also does not support the proposed elimination of Even Start and Safe and Drug Free Schools state grants, and drastic cuts to Educational Technology programs.

CEF is encouraged by the president’s proposal to provide additional investments in school improvement grants, early childhood grants, an early learning challenge fund, an expanded Striving Readers program, and a college access and completion fund. CEF also supports increasing the maximum Pell Grant award by \$200 to \$5,550.

We urge Congress to provide the necessary additional investments for the success of America’s students in the FY 2010 spending bill. When our students succeed, our nation succeeds!

Sincerely,

Deborah Rigsby
President

Edward R. Kealy
Executive Director