

THE CHILDREN'S BUDGET COALITION

INVESTING IN THEIR FUTURE

March 12, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

As the March 23, 2018 deadline for the current continuing resolution (CR) approaches, we are writing to express our deep concern about any efforts to depart from the Bipartisan Budget Agreement (BBA, PL 115-23) reached on February 9, 2018. We strongly urge you to pass a Fiscal Year 2018 (FY 18) omnibus funding bill that fulfills that agreement to increase non-defense discretionary spending by \$131 billion over Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 and allow the use of approximately \$17 billion in changes to mandatory programs (CHIMPs) as established in the FY 18 Budget Resolution. Failure to live up to these commitments will force untenable cuts to programs benefitting children.

The Children's Budget Coalition is made up of 70 children-focused organizations collectively committed to seeing that our nation's leaders value the importance of investing in our children and provide robust funding for programs that impact children's development and well-being. Children represent nearly a quarter of America's population, yet they continue to receive a declining share of total federal spending, with that number reaching an all-time low of 7.75 percent in FY 17, according to First Focus' [Children's Budget 2017](#). Of the 172 programs in this budget book, 137 rely on annual discretionary funding. Approximately 80 percent of those discretionary programs receive funds through the Labor-HHS-Education-and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill. Unfortunately, recent reports indicate that the upcoming FY 2018 omnibus may fail to apply the BBA to the Labor-HHS subcommittee. This would shortchange our children and, as a result, our economic future. To avoid this outcome, we urge you to follow through on the BBA, including the use of \$17 billion in CHIMPS to circumvent draconian cuts to vital programs that safeguard children.

The coming days present an opportunity to stand up for our nation's future: our children. Reversing the years of downward pressure on spending for children's discretionary programs is imperative. We are counting on you to lead the way.

Signed,

1,000 Days
AASA, The School Superintendents Association

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
American Academy of Pediatrics
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of School Business Officials International
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Bread for the World
Child Care Aware of America
Child Welfare League of America
Children and Family Futures
Children's Health Fund
Committee for Children
Early Care and Education Consortium
Every Child Matters
Family Focused Treatment Association
First Focus Campaign for Children
Futures Without Violence
Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA)
National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Network for Youth
National Respite Coalition
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium
National Rural Education Association
Partnership For America's Children
Public Advocacy for Kids
Save the Children Action Network
SchoolHouse Connection
Voice for Adoption
Youth Villages
Zero To Three