

THE CHILDREN'S BUDGET COALITION

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

October 30th, 2018

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney,

The Children's Budget Coalition is comprised of more than 70 children's advocacy organizations with priorities across a diverse range of issues who come together to advocate collectively for children to be a top priority in federal budget and appropriations decisions. Children represent nearly a quarter of the nation's population and the entirety of our nation's future. Yet, 17.5 percent of our kids currently live in poverty, and federal investment decisions fail to value all of our children. In fact, the share of the federal spending on children declined between Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and FY 2018, according to *Children's Budget 2018*. For all of our nation's children to enjoy an equal opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential, we must reverse this trend. We are writing to urge you to prioritize the needs of children as you prepare your FY 2020 budget request and build off the priorities reflected in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA; P.L. 115-123).

In the context of this long-term decrease in the share of the federal budget supporting kids and families, there has been one bright spot: that value did increase between FY 2017 and FY 2018. This improvement stems from the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which allowed Congress to make much-needed investments in a host of discretionary programs dedicated to feeding, housing, educating, and protecting the nation's children. It is our hope that you will lead the way in restoring regular order to the budget and appropriations process by recognizing that a return to the inadequate Budget Control Act (BCA: PL 112-25) spending limits would reverse the progress under the BBA, undermining federal investments in vital programs that positively impact children's development and wellbeing. Therefore, we ask that you work with Congress to develop a budget that raises the caps with parity between defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending as a clear commitment to federal spending decisions that value our children.

We remain very concerned that the \$55 billion drop in allowable NDD spending slated to occur between FY 2019 and FY 2020 will be devastating to the wellbeing of our nation's children, especially in light of critical funding increases that are necessary to ensure an accurate decennial Census count, comply with the VA Mission Act (PL 115-182), and address the ongoing opioid abuse epidemic. The stricter BCA caps on NDD spending likely would shortchange the 302(b) allocations for those appropriations subcommittees funding the greatest number of programs serving children and families—especially Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, Transportation-Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture-FDA, and Commerce, Justice, and Science. As a result, much-needed increases for some children's programs have come at the expense of other, equally important and complementary initiatives serving children and their families. We further

object to an arbitrary, “one-size-fits-all” target to reduce spending, such as directing cabinet secretaries to cut 5 percent of their agency’s budgets, which would only exacerbate these difficult tradeoffs.

We hope you will lead the way in creating an FY 2020 budget that builds off the priorities reflected in the BBA and supports robust investments in our children and families. As advocates, we know the powerful impact this will have, and we stand ready to work with you in the coming months.

Signed,

1000 Days

AASA, The School Superintendents Association

Afterschool Alliance

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

American Federation of Teachers

American Psychological Association

Association of Educational Service Agencies

Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents

Association of School Business Officials International

Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Campaign for Youth Justice

Child Care Aware of America

Child Welfare League of America

Children's Health Fund

Children’s Advocacy Institute

Citizens’ Committee for Children of NY

Coalition on Human Needs

Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

Committee for Children

Communities In Schools

Every Child Matters

Families USA

Family Focused Treatment Association

First Focus

Futures Without Violence

Institute For Child Success

Institute for Educational Leadership

Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect

March of Dimes

MomsRising

Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

National Association of Elementary School Principals

National Network for Youth

National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)

National Association for the Education of Young Children

National Association of Counsel for Children

National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
National Association of School Nurses
National Education Association
National Respite Coalition
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium
National Rural Education Association
National WIC Association
National Writing Project
Prevent Blindness
Public Advocacy for Kids
Save the Children Action Network
SchoolHouse Connection
Share Our Strength
Voices for Progress
Youth Villages