

THE CHILDREN'S BUDGET COALITION

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

June 11th, 2019

The Honorable Donald Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington D.C. 20500

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

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

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear President Trump, Director Mulvaney, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The Children's Budget Coalition is comprised of over 80 child-focused organizations who collectively advocate to ensure that our nation's policy makers prioritize children in federal budget decisions and the annual appropriations process. We are writing to urge you to reach a bipartisan budget agreement in early June that would raise the budget caps for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2020 and 2021 and prevent a significant and disruptive cut of \$55 billion in non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending.

Children represent nearly a quarter of America's population, but receive less than 8 percent of the federal budget. In fact, children receive a smaller piece of the federal pie today than they did five years ago, due in part to sequestration and the NDD spending caps authorized in the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA, P.L. 112-25). The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA, P.L. 115-123) provided some much-needed relief to this declining share of spending on children's programs. Its increase in the discretionary spending caps for FY 2018 and FY 2019 helped lawmakers invest in a range of programs benefitting children and families. We encourage you to build off those successes in FY 2020 and FY 2021.

As child advocates, we know that robust investments in the many discretionary programs that serve our communities and families help to lift children out of poverty, achieve household financial stability, and improve our nation's economic health. A recent landmark report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, *A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty*, illustrates the great return on investment that stems from increased spending on programs that reduce child poverty, which costs between \$800 billion and \$1 trillion a year. Given those findings, the \$55 billion drop in allowable NDD spending slated for FY 2020 would be a step in the wrong direction. This draconian cut would be extremely detrimental to the well-being of our nation's children by jeopardizing critical programs that help hard-working families meet their basic needs, including food, housing, health care and income security. So too would it threaten our national security goals, as NDD programs strengthen our military readiness by contributing to the education, health and development of our nation's youth. The stricter

BCA caps on NDD spending are particularly alarming given the increased funding that Congress must provide for an accurate decennial Census count and to fulfill the VA Mission Act (P.L. 115-182).

While we are heartened that you continue to meet and negotiate a bipartisan budget agreement that would replace the unrealistic and unworkable budget caps set out in the BCA, the end of the FY is fast approaching. A June budget caps deal is imperative in order for Congress to complete a regular appropriations process before the beginning of the new FY. This is all the more important given the historic government shutdown in January that seriously harmed the economic security, health, and well-being of low-income children and families who participate in vital government programs and services. Similarly, the recent pattern of multiple stopgap funding measures has created unpredictable and inadequate program funding that fails to keep pace with inflation and neglects the pressing needs of our children and families.

We urge you to reach another bipartisan budget agreement in the coming weeks to lift the discretionary spending limits for FYs 2020 and 2021. Only then will our institutions receive the necessary and timely resources essential for investing in our nation's children and, consequentially, our future.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Afterschool Alliance

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities

American Academy of Pediatrics

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

Association of Educational Service Agencies

Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)

Bread for the World

Campaign for Youth Justice

Child Care Aware of America

Child Labor Coalition

Child Welfare League of America

Children's Health Fund

Children's Advocacy Institute

Children's Advocacy Institute

Citizens' Committee for Children of New York (CCC)

City Year Inc

Coalition on Human Needs

Committee for Children
Early Care and Education Consortium (ECEC)
Every Child Matters
First Focus Campaign for Children
March of Dimes
MomsRising
Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA)
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
National Association of School Nurses
National Respite Coalition
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium
National Rural Education Association
National WIC Association
National Writing Project
Partnership for America's Children
Prevent Blindness
Public Advocacy for Kids
Save the Children Action Network
The Kempe Center
YMCA of the USA