



August 8, 2023

Representative Kay Granger
Chair, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Robert Aderholt
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Chair Aderholt:

The Coalition for Teaching Quality writes in strong opposition to the House Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-H) appropriations bill. It is a direct attack on the educator workforce that will harm professionals at all levels, impacting students, families, and communities.

The Coalition for Teaching Quality represents national civil rights, disability, parent, student, community, and education organizations advocating together to ensure that all students have access to well-prepared and effective teachers and school leaders. We advocate for meaningful funding levels and policies for the federal programs designed to close gaps in student access to a well-prepared, diverse, experienced, and stable educator workforce.

The teaching profession is facing strong headwinds. This school year, all 50 states reported teacher shortages in at least one subject area. [A recent study](#) found that our country is short about 200,000 teachers, with 36,000 vacancies and 163,000 positions being held by underqualified teachers. Factors from poor working conditions to declines in enrollment in educator preparation programs will result in the worsening of shortages without substantial, sustained investments.

The FY 2024 House Labor-H appropriations bill compounds the educator shortage crisis. It would make the cost of college more expensive and less accessible for low-income families, further cramping the entry point into the profession; it would slash funding that directly supports teacher and school leader salaries and the professional development necessary to improve skills- programs that are critical to retaining a qualified workforce; and it would eliminate programs that support comprehensive educator preparation at institutions of higher education including programs specifically designed to support programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and minority-serving institutions of higher education, a long-standing source of well-prepared and diverse teachers.

On behalf of civil rights, disability, parent, student, community, and education organizations advocating for all students to have access to fully prepared and effective educators, we urge you to reverse the cuts to the FY 2024 House Labor-H appropriations bill and write a bill that prioritizes children, families,

educators, and communities.

Sincerely,

ACTFL

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)

Californians Together

Center for Learner Equity

Council for Exceptional Children

Council of Administrators of Special Education

Higher Education Consortium for Special Education (HECSE)

National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement

National Association for Music Education

National Association for the Education of Young Children

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

National Center for Learning Disabilities

National Center for Teacher Residencies (NCTR)

National Council of Teachers of English

National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

National Education Association

Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)

Public Advocates

Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children (TED)