FUND OUR FUTURE: GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

On May 8, the House Appropriations Committee passed a fiscal year 2020 funding bill that provides a total of $75.9 billion in discretionary funding for education programs. This is $4.4 billion above the 2019 enacted level and $11.9 billion above the president’s budget request.

Of this amount, the bill includes:

- **$16.9 billion for Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies**, an increase of $1 billion above the 2019 enacted level and the president’s budget request. The federal government’s chief responsibility and role in education is promoting equal opportunity for a high-quality education. Title I funds are used to provide additional academic support, including extra instruction in reading and mathematics, and special preschool, after-school and summer programs to extend and reinforce the regular school curriculum.

- **$14.5 billion for Special Education**, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Special Olympics, an increase of $1.05 billion above the 2019 enacted level and $1.07 billion above the president’s budget request.

- **$2.6 billion for Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Title II-A)**, which can be used for professional development for teachers, paraprofessionals and school-related personnel and to reduce class size. This is an increase of $500 million over the 2019 enacted level. The president’s budget proposed to eliminate this program.

- **$40 million for Full-Service Community Schools** to provide comprehensive services and expand evidence-based models that meet the holistic needs of children, families and communities. This increase in community school funding is coupled with a $40 million decrease in funding for charter schools compared to the 2019 enacted level.

- **$24.9 billion for federal student aid programs**, $492 million above the 2019 enacted level and $1.9 billion above the president’s budget request. The bill provides $6,345 for the maximum Pell Grant, an increase of $150 over the 2019 enacted level and the president’s budget request. The increase will help the maximum award keep pace with inflation.

- **$1 billion for the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program**, an increase of $188 million above the 2019 enacted level. The president’s budget request proposed to eliminate this program.

- **$1.4 billion for Federal Work-Study**, an increase of $304 million above the 2019 enacted level and $934 million above the president’s budget request.