



National Council of State Directors of Adult Education

November 13, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members,

The National Council of State Directors of Adult Education, representing the state directors of adult education (adult literacy, adult basic education, ESOL, adult secondary education, and family literacy) around the country, congratulates you on the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (BBA). Now, as you work to finalize allocations to annual appropriations bills under the revised budget caps, we urge you to ensure that the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill includes support for adult education under Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) **at least at the FY 2016 authorized level of \$622 million.**

Just over a year ago, Congress voted for WIOA in overwhelming bipartisan votes in both the House and Senate. The law established adult education as one of the four key programs in the workforce system because it recognized the crucial role adult education plays in educating our population, teaching English and civics, and preparing adults for occupational training, to enter the workforce, or improve their employment status. The improvements in these services that the law anticipates cannot be fully realized without sufficient resources. **That is why the \$622 million authorized in WIOA in FY 2016 for Title II is so important.**

Building on the bipartisan agreement in the BBA, Labor-HHS investments in skills and education are critical to businesses, workers, and the economy. Thank you for your leadership and attention to this important matter.

Should you have questions, please contact our Policy Chair, Art Ellison, at (603) 271-6698 (or Arthur.Ellison@doe.nh.gov); or our association's Chair, Beverly E. Smith, at (217) 785-0171 (or besmith@tcsgeu.edu); or our Executive Director, Jeff Carter at (202) 624-5250 (or jcarter@naepdc.org).

Sincerely,

Jeff Carter
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Roy Blunt, Chairman, Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee
Senator Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee
Representative Tom Cole, Chairman, House Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee
Representative Rosa Delauro, Ranking Member, House Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee