

CHILDREN'S BUDGET COALITION

May 18, 2016

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2508

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4704

The Honorable Tom Cole
United States House of Representatives
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3604

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
United States House of Representatives
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0703

Dear Chairmen Blunt and Cole and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro,

The Children's Budget Coalition strongly supports robust funding for programs that impact children's development and well-being, particularly in the areas of health, education, nutrition, housing and welfare. As you advance the 2017 Labor, Health & Human Services and Education Appropriations bill, we request that you prioritize investments in children's programs while working in a bipartisan fashion.

There are more than 200 distinct programs that benefit children and families and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services and Education has jurisdiction over many of these critical programs. While we are aware of the tight budgetary environment due to the topline budget of \$1.07 trillion and the 302(b) allocation, we are still very concerned with two disinvestment trends for programs that benefit children:

- **Total government spending on children in the last five years, when adjusted for inflation, is down 9.4 percent, more than twice the rate of overall spending decreases of 4 percent.** These totals include mandatory and discretionary spending as well as American Recovery & Reinvestment Act outlays. We are concerned with these disproportionate cuts to children's programs and the long-term impact they will have on the futures of our nation's children and families.
- **The overall share of federal spending for kids is only 7.89 percent of total government spending, which is down from children's 8.29 percent share in 2014.** Furthermore, over the last five years, the federal share of discretionary spending dedicated to children has dropped by 7.2 percent. We are concerned with this disinvestment in children, which has not kept pace with overall increases in federal spending during the same time.

The Children's Budget Coalition is committed to ensuring that robust federal investment in the critical programs that nurture children is a top priority for our nation's leaders and you have an opportunity to help us increase the investment in children. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you in the coming months to ensure all of our nation's children have an equal opportunity to reach their full potential.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Health Fund
Easterseals
First Focus Campaign for Children
Institute for Child Success
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
Moms Rising
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
National Education Association
National Network for Youth
National Title I Association
Public Advocacy for Kids
Save the Children
Save the Children Action Network
Share our Strength
United Way
National WIC Association
YMCA of the USA
Youth Villages
American Academy of Pediatrics