The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related
Agencies
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education &
Related Agencies
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

We are writing to request that you include no less than $2.295 billion in funding for the
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants program (Title II, Part A) as part of the fiscal year
2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.
In addition, we request that you include $30 million in funding for the School Leader
Recruitment and Support Program (SLRSP).

Title II, Part A provides flexible funding to states, districts, and schools to strengthen teacher and
school leader effectiveness and improve student outcomes, especially for children from low-
income families and communities. The bipartisan ESEA reauthorization strengthened the
program by providing new opportunities for states to use Title II, Part A funds to invest in
principal leadership, job-embedded professional learning and leadership opportunities for
teachers, and other evidence-based leadership strategies that will lead to improved student
outcomes. Many states are planning to take advantage of the optional three percent set-aside in
Title II, Part A to invest in school leadership. Funding Title II, Part A at no less than $2.295
billion will support momentum at the state level to use these dollars more effectively by
encouraging states, districts, and schools to move forward with plans to invest in evidence-based,
locally-driven strategies to strengthen school leadership.

SLRSP – the only federally authorized program dedicated specifically to strengthening school
leadership – is the next generation of the School Leadership Program, which has seeded principal
training and support programs with a demonstrated track record of effectiveness. Through this
program, aspiring principals gain access to high-quality preparation programs, sitting principals
receive critical professional development supports, and thousands of teachers – along with
hundreds of thousands of students – work and learn in schools where the leadership has the tools
to help them maximize their potential. Recognizing the importance of school leaders, Congress
included this important program in the bipartisan reauthorization of the Elementary and
Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Funding SLRSP at $30 million will allow for the awarding of
new, competitive grants to support the recruitment, preparation, placement, support, and
retention of effective principals in high-need schools.

Support for SLRSP and Title II, Part A is essential because strong school leaders have an
outsized effect on student achievement, dramatically improving the quality of teaching, creating
positive school environments, and raising student achievement in a school. Both programs can
help develop a pipeline of skilled new principals and target experienced principals who are in

their first year tackling the challenges of school turnaround and for whom strong support and high-quality professional learning are particularly critical. By leveraging new pathways to prepare and support outstanding educators to lead our schools, SLRSP and Title II, Part A-supported leadership strategies can amplify other investments in educator quality and lead to improved outcomes for teachers, students, and families.

These targeted federal investments can have a huge influence on locally-driven efforts to get well-prepared, well-supported principals in our highest-need schools. We urge you to include $30 million in funding for SLRSP and no less than $2.295 billion in funding for Title II, Part A to help ensure that school leaders have access to the preparation and support that enable them to drive positive change for students and teachers.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Senator Al Franken   Senator Tom Carper