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April 5, 2017

The Honorable Mike Gallagher  
U.S. Congress  
1007 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gallagher:

On behalf of school leaders throughout Wisconsin, we are writing to express our **support for full funding of Title II, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) as Congress works to finalize a funding measure for the remainder of FY 2017 and FY 2018.**


It is hard to think of a bigger priority than ensuring that every Wisconsin student graduates from high school prepared for college and career success. This is particularly crucial because education is among the most important determinants of success and prosperity in life, from health and lifetime earning potential to meaningful participation in civic life. The quality of teachers and leaders are the first and second most important school-related factors to student success. Therefore, how educators are prepared and grow throughout their careers should be a national priority.

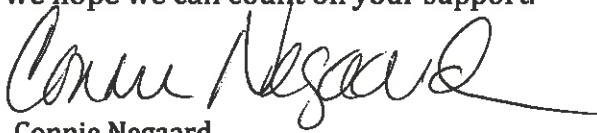
That priority is included in ESSA. Overwhelmingly approved by a bipartisan Congress, ESSA provides new opportunities for states to use Title II, Part A funds to invest in principal leadership and support, which will lead to improved student outcomes. States, like Wisconsin, have the opportunity to invest three percent of Title II, Part A funds for school leadership activities. To ensure that school leaders in Wisconsin have access to these opportunities, we ask that Congress allocate no less than \$2.295 billion to Title II, Part A in any new funding package. This amount represents what was originally authorized for Title II, Part A under ESSA, and is still below pre-sequestration funding levels.


**We are extremely disappointed by President Trump's decision to eliminate funding entirely for Title II, Part A in the initial fiscal year 2018 budget proposal to Congress. We urge you to instead provide the full funding level authorized for Title II, Part A in ESSA.** Stakeholders in Wisconsin have engaged in the ESSA planning process to design greater investment in the recruitment and retention of effective educators. Without any Title II funding, states and districts will not be able to execute plans that strive to support effective educators as they implement the new law. Congress must give states the necessary resources to invest in teachers and leaders and help our nation's schools and students succeed by funding Title II, Part A at no less than \$2.295 billion for fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018.


*The Honorable Mike Gallagher*  
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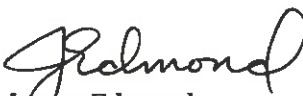
Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we hope we can count on your support.


  
Bruce Russell  
Principal, Oconto Falls High School  
AWSA President


  
Connie Negaard  
Director of Secondary Education, Stevens  
Point Area School District  
AWSA Region 5 Director

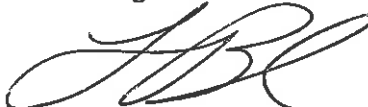
  
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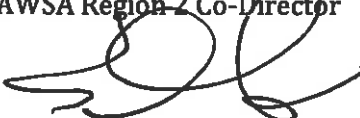
  
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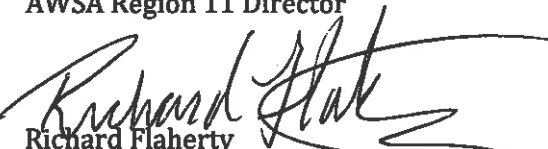
  
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