



July 28, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), I am writing to share my concerns regarding the proposed funds for the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS-Education) appropriations bill. This piece of legislation contains critical programs that support the success of our nation's students, educators, and the PK-12 and higher institutions that prepare an educated citizenry and workforce.

While considering the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill I ask that the appropriated funds be set to the highest level possible under the current statutory cap. Without utilizing all available budgetary authority, I am concerned that education programs will be cut to a level that will negatively impact teaching and learning and, consequently, all students' ability to graduate from high school prepared for postsecondary success with significant impact on students of color and other historically marginalized groups.

AACTE represents more than 600 postsecondary institutions with comprehensive educator preparation programs dedicated to high-quality, evidence-based preparation that assures educators are ready to teach all learners. We are committed to building and sustaining high-quality preparation of teachers and other education professionals that ensure our graduates are profession-ready. We must invest in this nation's educator workforce in order to meet the needs of its students. Accordingly, I ask that you increase the FY2024 funding levels for the following programs:

- **Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) Grants:** We request that the TQP program be funded at the minimum of \$132 M to invest in expansions of the teaching workforce and the quality preparation of new and prospective teachers.
- **Augustus Hawkins Centers for Excellence:** This program ensures that our nation has a qualified and diverse educator workforce by investing in innovative and evidence-based approaches at minority serving institutions to attract, prepare and retain educators that reflect the diversity of our nation's students. We are requesting that that Hawkins Centers be funded at a minimum of \$30M.
- **Title I-A:** Title 1-A must be funded based at a minimum of \$30.5M to ensure that economically disadvantaged schools and districts can provide the programs needed for low-income students to meet rigorous academic standards. We cannot close the opportunity gap without investing in our neediest schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lynn M. Gangone'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lynn M. Gangone, Ed.D., CAE

