

August 3, 2015

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Blunt, Senator Murray, Representative Cole, and Representative DeLauro:

We are writing to urge you to include \$120 million (level funding) for Investing in Innovation (i3), an evidence-based innovation fund, in the Appropriations Committee's final fiscal year 2016 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

We believe that i3 is driving substantial and lasting improvements in student achievement by supporting the development and scale-up of successful innovations at the state and local levels. i3 uses a tiered-evidence approach that has two important design principles: it provides more funds to programs with higher levels of evidence, and it requires rigorous and independent evaluations so that programs continue to improve. By prioritizing approaches proven to work, the grants are more likely to achieve greater impact. The requirement to evaluate results provides a basis to improve programs all along the spectrum of effectiveness. In addition, the i3 program has demonstrated an ability to successfully appeal to the private sector's interests, generating private investments in the form of matching funds and in-kind donations.

There is bipartisan support for a federal investment in education innovation. S. 1177, The Every Child Achieves Act, was passed by the Senate on July 16, 2015 by a vote of 81 to 17, and it authorizes an evidence-based innovation fund. This program, modeled on the successful Small Business Innovation Research program, would provide flexible funding for a broad range of field-driven projects and allow schools, districts, non-profits, and small businesses to develop and grow innovative programs to improve student achievement. Grants would be awarded using a tiered evidence framework based on an applicant's effectiveness.

We believe that funding for education innovation is imperative to prepare the next generation to explore the universe, cure diseases, and engineer new solutions to all kinds of challenges and will help states, districts, educators, families, and communities prepare each young person for success in college, career, and citizenship.

Sincerely,

10,000 Degrees
 Achievement Network
 AdvancED
 Alliance College-Ready Public Schools
 Alumni Revolution
 America Forward
 America's Promise
 AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation
 Aspire Public Schools
 Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School
 Atlantic Research Partners
 Beaverton School District
 Blue Engine, Inc.
 BPE
 California Association for
 Bilingual Education (CABE)
 CASA
 Center for Community Arts Partnerships,
 Columbia College Chicago
 Center for Research and Reform in Education,
 Johns Hopkins University
 Challenger Center for Space Science Education
 Chiefs for Change
 Children Youth & Family Collaborative
 Children's Literacy Initiative
 Citizen Schools
 City Year
 College Possible
 Colorado Succeeds
 ConnCAN
 Council for Opportunity in Education
 Curry School at the University of Virginia
 Democracy Builders
 Democrats for Education Reform
 Diana H. Fishbein, C. Eugene Bennett Chair
 in Prevention Research, Penn State University
 Douglas MacIver, Center for
 Social Organization of Schools
 EDGE Consulting Partners
 Education Analytics Inc.
 Education Development Center (EDC)
 Education Northwest
 Education Reform Now
 Edvance Research, Inc.
 Empirical Education
 Erikson Institute
 Everyone Graduates Center
 Forum for Youth Investment
 Generation Citizen
 Hiawatha Leadership Academy
 IDEA Public Charter Schools
 INSPIRE (Infusing Innovative STEM
 Practices Into Rigorous Education)
 Iredell-Statesville Schools
 Jobs for the Future
 Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative
 KIPP Foundation
 Knowledge Alliance
 KnowledgeWorks
 Leading Educators
 Learning Forward
 Literacy Design Collaborative
 Lynn Cominsky, Sonoma State University
 Maricopa County Education Service Agency (MCESA)
 Mark T. Greenberg, Bennett Chair of Prevention
 Research, Penn State University
 Marzano Research
 Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education
 McREL International
 MECSA
 MinnCAN
 Montgomery County Schools, KY
 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
 National Center for Learning Disabilities
 National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform
 National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
 National Writing Project
 New Classrooms
 New Leaders
 New Schools for New Orleans
 New Teacher Center
 New Visions for Public Schools
 New York Hall of Science
 Niswonger Foundation
 North Carolina New Schools
 Northern Humboldt Union High School District
 NWEA
 NYC Leadership Academy
 Old Dominion University
 Ounce of Prevention Fund

Parents as Teachers
READS Summer Learning
Ready to Learn Providence
Results for America
RMC Research
Save the Children
Search Institute
Seneca Family of Agencies
Spurwink Services
SRI International
StartSmart K-3 Plus
State Collaborative on Reforming
Education (SCORE)
Success for All Foundation
Talent Development Secondary
Teach For America

Prevention Research Center, Penn State University
Teach Plus
The California League of Middle Schools
The Children's Aid Society
The Mind Trust
The New York Hall of Science
The Policy & Research Group
TNTP
Turnaround for Children
University of Alaska
University of Missouri, College of Education
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Urban Teacher Residency United
Waterford Research Institute
WestEd
YES Prep