

October 4, 2013

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative,

On behalf of AASA: The School Superintendents Association representing more than 10,000 school system leaders across the nation, I write to express our strong support for the House to end the government shutdown by adopting a 'clean' comprehensive continuing resolution that funds all parts of government and does not lock in the damaging cuts of sequestration.

AASA strongly opposes the most recent set of proposals under consideration, the 'mini' continuing resolutions that cherry pick programs to support. The very same negative impacts you aim to thwart for students in Head Start programs and Impact Aid communities exist for students in communities across the country. AASA is concerned by this piecemeal approach to federal funding, which fails to address federal programs that support students and schools in all 50 states, including Title I, IDEA, rural education, career/technical education, and more. We urge you to extend the concern you have demonstrated for the impact of the shutdown on a selected number of education programs—including Head Start and Impact Aid—to the full government.

Any House proposal serious about addressing the consequences of fiscal instability (whether for all of government, all education programs or just Head Start and Impact Aid) must reject the debilitating cuts that result from the poor policy of sequestration. In the more narrow conversation about funding education, any serious conversation will reject the House 302(b) allocation for the LHHS-Education appropriations bill, which is more than 18% below sequester levels and more than 22% below pre-sequester levels.

AASA remains concerned that Congress has yet to address sequestration. It is imperative that Congress pick up the work of the failed Super Committee and identify a blend of revenue increases, spending cuts and mandatory program reform to avoid the blunt, across-the-board cuts of sequestration. AASA has actively advocated against—and demonstrated the deep, damaging cuts stemming from—sequestration and its impact on our nation's public schools. The cuts of sequestration harm our nation's global competitiveness and economic future by completely undermining progress on improving student achievement, closing achievement gaps and increasing high school graduation and post-secondary education attendance. Continuing the shutdown and continuing sequestration will only compound the damage to our nation's competitiveness.

Congress alone worked itself into the federal government shutdown, and Congress alone can end this. Now is the time for Congress to seriously consider—and address—the ramifications for continued inaction as they relate to both sequestration and the annual appropriations process. AASA urges you to vote NO on the mini-CRs and to support a full-year LHHS-Education appropriation at pre-sequester levels.

Sincerely



Noelle M. Ellerson  
Associate Executive Director, Policy & Advocacy