



November 15, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray,

We are writing to express our gratitude and very strong support for the increases in funding provided to specific programs within the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) and the U.S. Department of Education (ED) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) appropriations bill released by the Senate Democrats on the LHHS Subcommittee. Knowledge Alliance (KA), a non-profit, non-partisan organization, is composed of leading education organizations that share the belief that high-quality, relevant research is critical to solving the education problems facing our country today. Collectively, we work to elevate the creation and use of rigorous research and evidence for systems change, sustainable resources, equitable public education and access to opportunity for all.

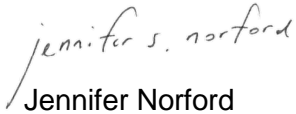
Critical to COVID-19 response and recovery and systemic educational improvements is a strong research and technical assistance infrastructure that includes programs at IES –such as the Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs) and the Research, Development, and Dissemination (RD&D) program – coupled with the Comprehensive Centers (CCs) and the Education Innovation and Research (EIR) program at ED. We thank the Senate Democrats on the LHHS Subcommittee for their leadership in recognizing this need with the inclusion of substantial increases above FY 2021 levels in the LHHS appropriations bill for the following programs: \$814.5 million for IES, \$267.9 million for the RD&D line item at IES, \$60 million for RELs, \$57 million for CCs and \$270 million for EIR. Knowledge Alliance is confident that these key investments will support critical research, technical assistance and evaluation, and innovation to help States, districts and schools meet the academic and social emotional learning (SEL) needs of all students, especially student populations who have been historically underserved and significantly impacted by the pandemic.

We would like to highlight the bill's proposed historic increase of \$70 million above FY 2021 levels for the RD&D line item within IES for a total of \$267.9 million. RD&D funds basic research using rigorous research methodologies, including randomized controlled trials and quasi-experimental approaches, which have led to improvements in curriculum and instruction in many areas. While we must continue to invest in COVID-19 response and recovery, we firmly support this investment in bolstering education research overall.

We adamantly believe that Congress' continued strong support for and investment in the education research and dissemination infrastructure will help improve outcomes for students

and effectively leverage scarce Federal resources. Furthermore, it will empower States and local school districts to develop and implement the innovative, evidence-based approaches that work best for the students in their communities as they continue the long journey of education recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you again for your leadership in providing these increases for these critical IES and ED programs.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "jennifer s. norford".

Jennifer Norford

Chair, Knowledge Alliance