Dear Chairs DeLauro and Murray and Ranking Members Cole and Blunt,

We write on behalf of the Friends of IES, a coalition of 32 organizations committed to supporting the essential role of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). We greatly appreciate the Biden administration’s commitment and attention to the need to invest in education research. As you continue your work on FY 2022 appropriations, we wish to strongly endorse the top line amount of $737.47 million included in the president’s budget for IES.

The amount included in the president’s FY 2022 budget request would restore lost purchasing power over the past decade for IES to leverage education research, statistics, and evidence-based resources to address long-standing gaps in educational access and outcomes. The results from the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in math, reading, and science indicate that growing gaps in proficiency are partly driven by declines in average scores in the 25th and 10th percentiles. Developing and scaling up programs that address academic and socioemotional needs for traditionally underserved students require a robust investment such as the one proposed for FY 2022.

In addition, this funding level would bolster the research and statistical infrastructure needed to support learning recovery, understand and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across all levels of education, and ensure the continuation of research and data collection in the field. We also acknowledge that technology and informal settings for learning will remain important parts of education even as schools fully return to in-person instruction in the 2021-22 school year. The FY 2022 budget request would expand the capacity of IES to fund transformative research that incorporates education technology to help determine what works and how to improve programs for specific student populations. In turn, research supported by IES informs webinars, resources, and other tools used by educators, school administrators, counselors, and paraprofessionals.
The $737.47 million for IES included in the FY 2022 budget request represents strong support for the roles education research, statistics, and the dissemination of evidence-based resources have in responding to the longer-term effects of the educational disruption from COVID-19. We encourage Congress to appropriate this amount to provide IES the needed capacity to inform the development of tools and resources to support the success of our nation’s students, teachers, and education leaders, during the pandemic and beyond.

Sincerely,

American Educational Research Association
American Psychological Association
Association of American Universities
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Carnegie Mellon University
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council for Exceptional Children
Council of Administrators of Special Education
EDGE Consulting Partners
FABBS - Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Florida State University
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)
Johns Hopkins University
Knowledge Alliance
LEARN Coalition
Lehigh University
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
New York University
Penn State University
Population Association of America
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness
Teachers College, Columbia University
UCLA
University of California San Diego
University of California System
University of Florida
University of Oregon
University of Washington College of Education
Vanderbilt University