

May 4, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Leahy and Ranking Member Shelby:

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we respectfully request that you provide robust funding for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFEC) with the ultimate goal of a center in every state and territory.

The SFEC program provides much-needed technical assistance and partnership development to states and school districts to foster meaningful engagement with families to further their children's academic and developmental progress. SFECs also provide vital direct services to improve engagement between children, families, teachers, school leaders, counselors, administrators, and other school personnel. While SFECs work with all families and schools throughout their state, many focus on students of color, English learners and recent immigrant children working to integrate into their new communities.

Research has shown that family engagement in a child's education increases student achievement, improves attendance, reduces the dropout rate, and advances the emotional and physical well-being of children. Students whose families are involved in their children's academic success attend school more regularly, earn better grades, enroll in more challenging academic programs, and have higher graduation rates. The SFEC program harnesses effective practices to help schools and districts implement systematic family engagement programs that build ties between the community, families, students, and schools.

The SFEC program currently funds grants in thirteen states, and the U.S. Department of Education conducted a new competition this winter based on additional funding provided in Fiscal Year 2021. The program received \$15 million in FY 2022, which could allow for additional centers to be established in the future. However, despite this expansion, millions of K-12 students and their families in approximately 35 states and territories will be unable to benefit from the supports and services provided by SFECs unless Congress provides additional funding. This is especially troubling at a time when so many children throughout our country are suffering from learning loss, particularly those whose families and communities – many of

whom already faced significant disadvantages before the COVID-19 pandemic - have been most impacted by the pandemic.

Thank you for your ongoing support for the SFEC grant program, and for consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you to support this important program.

Sincerely,



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



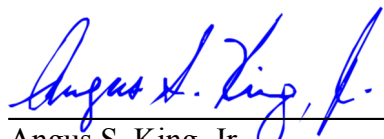
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



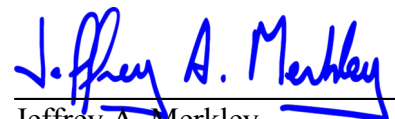
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



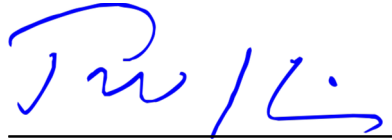
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator




Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



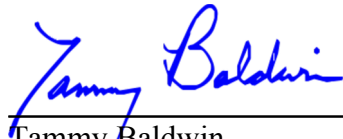
Jon Tester
United States Senator



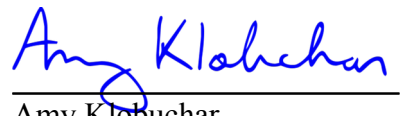
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



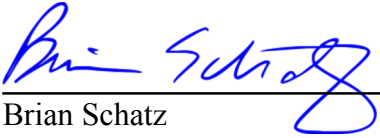
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



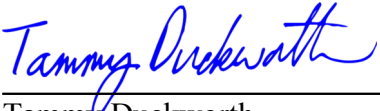
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Labor and Health and Human Services Group Letter Table
LHHS_Coons_Group_220525-095049[LetterID 11818]

ID	Sub	Request Agency or Account	Request Project Name	Request (\$000)
84926	LHHS Group	[Title III]/[Education]/[Innovation and Improvement]/[Statewide Family Engagement Centers] [Member Staff] - Carter Thompson Carter_Thompson@Coons.senate.gov 202-228-6699	Statewide Family Engagement Centers [Member's Request (text)] - Robust funding	\$0

Appropriations Request Database

Request ID: 84926

Agency or Account:	[Title III]/[Education]/[Innovation and Improvement]/[Statewide Family Engagement Centers]	Project Name:	Statewide Family Engagement Centers
Member/s:	Coons, Christopher(D-DE); Baldwin, Tammy(D-WI); Blumenthal, Richard(D-CT); Brown, Sherrod(D-OH); Carper, Thomas(D-DE); Cortez Masto, Catherine(D-NV); Duckworth, Tammy(D-IL); Durbin, Richard(D-IL); Feinstein, Dianne(D-CA); Hassan, Margaret Wood(D-NH); Heinrich, Martin(D-NM); Hirono, Mazie(D-HI); Kaine, Tim(D-VA); King, Angus(I-ME); Klobuchar, Amy(D-MN); Merkley, Jeff(D-OR); Padilla, Alex(D-CA); Peters, Gary(D-MI); Reed, Jack(D-RI); Sanders, Bernard(I-VT); Schatz, Brian(D-HI); Shaheen, Jeanne(D-NH); Smith, Tina(D-MN); Stabenow, Debbie(D-MI); Tester, Jon(D-MT); Tillis, Thom(R-NC); Van Hollen, Chris(D-MD); Warren, Elizabeth(D-MA)	Subcommittee:	LHHS
Request Type:	Group	Staff Contact:	Carter Thompson Carter_Thompson@Coons.senate.gov 202-228-6699
Justification:	<p>As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we respectfully request that you provide robust funding for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFEC) with the ultimate goal of a center in every state and territory.</p> <p>The SFEC program provides much-needed technical assistance and partnership development to states and school districts to foster meaningful engagement with families to further their children's academic and developmental progress. SFECs also provide vital direct services to improve engagement between children, families, teachers, school leaders, counselors, administrators, and other school personnel. While SFECs work with all families and schools throughout their state, many focus on students of color, English learners and recent immigrant children working to integrate into their new communities.</p> <p>Research has shown that family engagement in a child's education increases student achievement, improves attendance, reduces the dropout rate, and advances the emotional and physical well-being of children. Students whose families are involved in their children's academic success attend school more regularly, earn better grades, enroll in more challenging academic programs, and have higher graduation rates. The SFEC program harnesses effective practices to help schools and districts implement systematic family engagement programs that build ties between the community, families, students, and schools.</p> <p>The SFEC program currently funds grants in thirteen states, and the U.S. Department of Education conducted a new competition this winter based on additional funding provided in Fiscal Year 2021. The program received \$15 million in FY 2022, which could allow for additional centers to be established in the future. However, despite this expansion, millions of K12 students and their families in approximately 35 states and territories will be unable to benefit from the supports and services provided by SFECs unless Congress provides additional funding. This is especially troubling at a time when so many children throughout our country are suffering from learning loss, particularly those whose families and communities – many of whom already faced significant disadvantages before the COVID-19 pandemic - have been most impacted by the pandemic.</p> <p>Thank you for your ongoing support for the SFEC grant program, and for consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you to support this important program.</p>		
Proposed Bill Language:		Proposed Report Language:	
Member's Request:	\$0	Member's Request (text):	Robust funding
Enacted Level:	\$15,000	President's Request:	\$15,000
CDS Request:	No		