### February 29, 2016

Honorable Thad Cochran Chairman Committee on Appropriations United States Senate Washington, DC, 20510

Honorable Barbara Mikulski Vice Chairwoman Committee on Appropriations United States Senate Washington, DC, 20510 Honorable Harold Rogers Chairman Committee on Appropriations United States House of Representatives Washington, DC, 20515

Honorable Nita Lowey Ranking Democratic Member Committee on Appropriations United States House of Representatives Washington, DC, 20515

#### **INVEST IN WHAT WORKS**

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Rogers, Vice Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Democratic Member Lowey:

We are writing to urge you to include the attached Invest in What Works provisions in the Appropriations Committees' fiscal year 2017 bills and reports for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and, Related Agencies; the Departments of Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies; the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies; and the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies. We have also included some information regarding our mandatory funding requests in order to provide you with a complete picture of the data and evidence provisions we support.

America continues to face severe budget constraints at all levels of government as well as enormous social and economic shifts. These factors, combined with an increasingly globally competitive workforce, require us to invest taxpayer dollars in the most effective and efficient manner possible. The recently enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 includes an unprecedented commitment to evidence-based, results-driven solutions, but more needs to be done. While we applaud the Administration's fiscal year 2017 budget, which proposes an increased focus on data and evidence, we must continue to ensure that scarce federal resources are invested in what works.

We thank you for the positive steps you have taken toward building a strong evidence-based, results-driven policy agenda, and we ask you to incorporate the attached Invest in What Works recommendations in the fiscal year 2017 appropriations bills and committee reports.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Achieve! Minneapolis

Achievement Network (ANet)

AdvancED

America Forward

America's Promise Alliance

American School Health Association

AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation

Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School

Be The Change Blue Engine

Boston Plan for Excellence

Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL)

California League of Middle Schools

CASA de Maryland

Cascade Philanthropy Advisors

Center for Employment Opportunities

Center for Research and Reform in Education, Johns

**Hopkins University** 

Challenger Center for Space Science Education

Charitable Assistance to Community's Homeless

(CATCH)

Children's Literacy Initiative

Citizen Schools City of Boise City of Las Vegas

City Year

College Possible National

College Summit

Communities In Schools

Community Supervision Alternatives

Community Training and Assistance Center (CTAC)

Congreso de Latinos Unidos

ConnCAN

**CSH** 

**Democrats for Education Reform** 

The Dibble Institute

**EDGE Consulting Partners** 

**Education Analytics** 

**Education Development Center** 

Education Reform Now Education Northwest

The eMINTS National Center Forum for Youth Investment Greater Twin Cities United Way

GreenLight Fund

Green and Healthy Homes Initiative

Green Dot Public Schools

Healthy Teens Coalition of Manatee County

**IDEA Public Schools** 

Infusing INnovative STEM Practices Into Education

(INSPIRE)

**Institute for Child Success** 

Internationals Network for Public Schools

Jobs for the Future

Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative

**KIPP** 

Knowledge Alliance Leading Educators

Leaps and Bounds Family Services

LIFT

Literacy Design Collaborative

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

March of Dimes McREL International

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas

Mile High United Way

Montgomery County Schools (NC)

Morino Institute

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and

Unplanned Pregnancy

National Center for Learning Disabilities National Center for Teacher Residencies National Council on Crime and Delinquency

National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform

National Prevention Science Coalition (NPSC) Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

New Classrooms New Leaders New Profit

New Schools for New Orleans

New Teacher Center Nonprofit Finance Fund Nurse Family Partnership Opportunity Nation

PACE Center for Girls, Inc.

Parents as Teachers Peace Alliance Public Counsel

**REDF** 

Research Institute for Key Indicators (RIKI)

Results for America

RMC Research Corporation

Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood

Seneca Family of Agencies

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Social Finance

Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine

Sorensen Impact Center, University of Utah

South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Spurwink Services

StriveTogether

Student Peace Alliance

Success for All Foundation

Teach For America

**Teach Plus** 

The Policy & Research Group

Third Sector Capital Partners

**TNTP** 

Turnaround for Children

United Way for Southeastern Michigan

United Way of Greenville County

United Way of Lane County

The University of Missouri College of Education

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

**Uplift Education** 

Urban Alliance

U.S. Soccer Foundation

Venture Philanthropy Partners

Voices for National Service

Way to Grow

WestEd

Workforce Data Quality Campaign

Wyman Center

Year Up

YES Prep Public Schools

Youth Villages

Paul Carttar, former Director, Social Innovation Fund and Senior Advisor, The Bridgespan Group

Lynn Cominsky, Director, Education and Public Outreach Group, Sonoma State University

Sandra Domingcil, Teen Parent Program, Salinas Union High School District (CA)

Michael Greenstone, Milton Friedman Professor in Economics, University of Chicago and Director, Energy Policy Institute at Chicago

Rebecca Maynard, Professor of Education & Social Policy, University of Pennsylvania

Diane Schanzenbach, Associate Professor, School of Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University and Director, The Hamilton Project, The Brookings Institution

Matt Segneri, Director, Social Enterprise Initiative, Harvard Business School

Martin West, Associate Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

cc: Denis McDonough, Shaun Donovan, Michael Deich, Bethanne Barnes, Cecilia Muñoz, James Kvaal, Jeffrey Zients, Jason Furman, Brian Deese, David Wilkinson

# INVEST IN WHAT WORKS SUMMARY OF FY'17 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

#### **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

Language - <u>WIOA Pay for Performance</u>: provide technical assistance for Pay for Performance Language - <u>Evaluation set-aside</u>: set aside 1% of discretionary appropriations for evaluations \$40,000,000 - <u>Workforce Data Quality Initiative</u>: build state and local data capacity for tracking employment and educational outcomes of WIOA program participants

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

\$25,000,000 - <u>Head Start Designation Renewal System (DRS)</u>: use evidence to determine if Head Start and Early Head Start agencies deliver high-quality and comprehensive services \$104,790,000 - <u>Teen Pregnancy Prevention</u>: continue a tiered-evidence approach to scaling-up proven programs and developing, testing, and evaluating innovative programs

Language - <u>Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home visiting program</u>: encourage HRSA and ACF to continue collaboration to improve outcomes for at-risk pregnant women and families through evidence-based home visiting programs

Language - <u>Community Mental Health Services Block Grant</u>: set aside 10% of funds to support evidence-based mental health prevention and treatment practices

Language – Modernizing Senior Nutrition Programs: set aside up to 1% of nutrition funds to expand evidence-based models, and set aside 1% for evaluations

\$15,000,000 - Children's Research and Technical Assistance: develop and evaluate approaches to reducing welfare dependency and increasing well-being of minor children Language - Statistical Access to National Directory for New Hires (NDNH): allow select access to the NDNH dataset, consistent with privacy and confidentiality protections

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

\$180,000,000 – **Education Innovation and Research**: support a tiered-evidence approach to creating, replicating, scaling-up, and evaluating evidence-based innovations

\$100,000,000 – Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools: support competitive grants to charter management organizations with proven track records of success \$100,000,000 - First in the World: support the implementation and evaluation of evidence-based strategies to improve college completion, particularly for high need students

Language – <u>Evaluation set aside</u>: set aside 1% of all discretionary appropriations, except for Pell Grants, for program evaluations

\$100,000,000 - <u>Supporting Effective Educator Development Grants (SEED</u>): support evidence-based educator support by applicants with a track record of success

Language – <u>TRIO</u>: support the Secretary's use of evidence in awarding competitive grants \$15,000,000 – <u>InformEd</u>: collect, analyze, and release data and evaluation studies, for internal users and the public, to answer pressing education questions

\$75,000,000 – <u>American Technical Training Fund</u>: support a tiered-evidence approach to developing, implementing, scaling-up, and evaluating job-training models

#### CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

\$70,000,000 - Social Innovation Fund: support evidence-based approaches that demonstrate measurable outcomes, including a 20% set aside for Pay for Success

\$386,010,000 - <u>AmeriCorps State and National</u>: support community-based organizations and programs that implement evidence-informed and evidence-based solutions

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS – Departments of Labor, HHS and Education**

Language - <u>Performance Partnership Pilots</u>: support establishing up to 10 Performance Partnership Pilots

#### **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

<u>Second Chance Act Offender Re-entry Programs</u>: set aside \$20,000,000 for Pay for Success, of which \$10,000,000 shall be for implementing the Permanent Supportive Housing Model Language - <u>Performance Partnership Pilots</u>: allow participation with other agencies in carrying out Performance Partnership Pilots

### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Ryan-Murray Evidence-Based Policy Commission**: create a commission to make administrative data widely available, while ensuring data security, privacy, and confidentiality

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Language – <u>Performance Partnership Pilots</u>: permit HUD to partner with other federal agencies in carrying out Performance Partnership Pilots

Language - Office of Policy Development and Research - Transfer Authority: authorize the transfer of up to \$120 million to integrate evidence throughout program policy and management

#### **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

\$22,400,000 - <u>USAID - Development Innovation Ventures</u>: support a tiered-evidence approach to testing, developing, implementing, scaling-up, and evaluating global development solutions

### SUPPORT FOR MANDATORY PROGRAMS

\$400,000,000 - Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home visiting program: encourage HRSA and ACF to continue collaboration to improve outcomes for at-risk pregnant women and families through evidence-based home visiting programs

\$300,000,000 - **Pay for Success (PFS)**: authorize a new PFS program within the Department of Treasury for State and local governments to establish PFS projects

Language - <u>Social Services Block Grant Program (SSBG)</u>: set aside-up to 1.5% of SSBG funds for research and program evaluations

### INVEST IN WHAT WORKS FY'17 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

#### **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

#### EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

Pay for Performance. - The Committee continues to believe that the Pay for Performance authority under WIOA is a promising, innovative approach to using data, evidence, and evaluation to improve workforce development outcomes for the most vulnerable citizens. The Committee directs the Department to continue to provide technical assistance to states and localities to help them utilize Pay for Performance strategies.

Workforce Data Quality Initiative. - The Committee has included \$40,000,000 for competitive grants to support the development and enhancement of longitudinal data systems that integrate education and workforce data. This initiative will help build state and local capacity to track employment and educational outcomes of WIOA program participants, including those with disabilities, and provide information about job success rates and training programs.

#### **GENERAL PROVISION**

Evaluation set-aside. - The Committee has included bill language increasing the transfer authority for the Office of Chief Evaluation Officer from 0.75 percent to 1.0 percent in order to carry out evaluations of the programs and activities within the Department. Language is also continued which requires that funds only be available if the Chief Evaluation Officer submits a plan describing the evaluations to be carried out 15 days prior to any transfer to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

## <u>HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION</u> MATERNAL, INFANT, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. - The Committee encourages HRSA and the Administration for Children and Families to continue their collaboration and partnerships to improve health and development outcomes for at-risk pregnant women, parents, and young children through evidence-based home visiting programs.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

Community Mental Health Services Block Grant. - The Committee includes bill language setting aside 10 percent of the funds for evidence-based programs to address the needs of individuals with early serious mental illness, including psychotic disorders. The Committee continues to direct SAMHSA to work in collaboration with NIMH to ensure that funds from the set-aside are only used for programs showing strong evidence of effectiveness.

## ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - CHILDREN AND FAMILIES HEADSTART

*Head Start Designation Renewal System.* - Within the total for Head Start, the Committee recommendation includes \$25,000,000 for the Head Start Designation Renewal System.

#### CHILDREN'S RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Children's Research and Technical Assistance. – The Committee bill includes language which provides \$15,000,000 for welfare research to support the cost of developing and evaluating innovative approaches for reducing welfare dependency and increasing the well-being of minor children.

#### ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

#### CONGREGATE AND HOME-DELIVERED NUTRITION SERVICES

Nutrition Services and Modernization Initiative. - The Committee has included bill language which permits the use of up to one percent of the funds appropriated to ACL's nutrition programs for modernization initiatives. These funds will support competitive grants to translate research into practice and expand evidence-based models for delivering services at the community level; help develop and test additional models; replicate models that have already been tested in other community-based setting; and help to drive improved health outcomes for program recipients by promoting higher service quality, and increase program efficiency through innovative service delivery models.

*Nutrition Service Evaluations.* – The Committee has included bill language which increase the set-aside from up to 0.5% to 1% of funds provided under title III to evaluate OAA programs and disseminate the results throughout the Aging Service Network.

#### GENERAL DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Teen Pregnancy Prevention. - The Committee includes \$104,790,000 for grants to public and private entities to fund medically accurate and age appropriate programs that reduce teen pregnancy and for the Federal costs associated with administering and evaluating such contracts and grants. The Committee has included bill language, which sets aside not more than 10 percent of the available funds for training and technical assistance, evaluation, outreach, and additional program support activities. Of the remaining amount, 75 percent shall be for replicating programs that have been proven effective through rigorous evaluation to reduce teenage pregnancy, behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy, or other associated risk factors and 25 percent shall be available for research and demonstration grants to develop, replicate, refine, and test additional models and innovative strategies for preventing teenage pregnancy.

#### NATIONAL DIRECTORY FOR NEW HIRES

National Directory of New Hires. - The Committee recommends permitting select Federal statistical and evaluation units to access the HHS's National Directory of New Hires dataset of Unemployment Insurance earnings data for statistical purposes, consistent with privacy and confidentiality protections.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

#### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

#### SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT (SEED) GRANTS

Supporting Effective Educator Development grant). - The Committee includes \$100,000,000 for SEED to expand support for grants to national nonprofit organizations for projects that provide evidence-based professional development activities for teachers, principals, and school leaders.

#### INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

Education Innovation and Research Program. - The Committee recommends \$180,000,000 for the Education Innovation and Research Program, modeled on the Small Business Innovation Research program, to support evidence-based initiatives to develop, validate and expand effective education interventions to help States and LEAs meet federal requirements, increase the number of large scale awards for activities with a strong evidence base, and expand the benefits of proven interventions to additional schools.

#### HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Grants for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools. - The Committee includes \$100,000,000 for competitive grants to charter management organizations with proven track records of success. The programs goal is to significantly increasing academic achievement and attainment for all students, their ability to provide sound financial and business management plans, and their willingness to offer transparent plans for closing schools that do not meet high standards of performance.

#### CAREER, TECHNICAL, AND ADULT EDUCATION

American Technical Training Fund. – The Committee includes \$75,000,000 for competitive grants to support the development, operation, and expansion of innovative, evidence-based, short-term, or accelerated education and job training programs that enable youth and adults, particularly from low-income families, to enter and complete career pathways that lead to jobs in in-demand industries and occupations.

#### **HIGHER EDUCATION**

## FUND FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FIRST IN THE WORLD (FITW)

First in the World. - The Committee recommends \$100,000,000 for First in the World for competitive awards to support the development, validation and improvement of promising evidence-based strategies to increase postsecondary completion rates for high-needs students, including a side-aside of up to 30 percent to support projects at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Servicing Institutions.

TRIO. – The Committee encourages the Secretary, when awarding TRIO grants, to support the expansion of innovation and evidence-based approaches to improve postsecondary education opportunities for low-income individuals and first generation college students.

### <u>DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - GENERAL PROVISION</u> EVALUATIONS

Evaluations. - The Committee recommends bill language that clarifies the Department's authority to use 1% of all discretionary appropriations provided in this Act for Department of Education agencies, with the exception of Pell Grants, for evaluation purposes consistent with the terms and conditions in this Act applicable to such office. The funds are in addition to other dollars that are specifically designated for evaluation purpose. The Committee also includes language, which permits funds to be pooled across all education agencies to conduct evaluations without respect to the source of funds for those activities. The Committee further recommends that the Department provide an evaluation plan to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees not later than 15 days prior to any transfer of funds.

*InformEd.* – The Committee has included \$15,000,000 to support open access to education data and centralize the dissemination of other evidence by improving the Department's data infrastructure to manage the collection, quality, release, and analysis of data.

#### CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

## INNOVATION, DEMONSTRATION, AND ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND (SIF)

Social Innovation Fund. - The Committee recommends \$70,000,000 for the SIF. The recommendation includes language that sets aside up to 20% of these funds for Pay for Success Projects. The Committee directs the Agency to provide renewal grants to current SIF grantees that are demonstrating significant interim outcomes, but have not had sufficient time to achieve their program goals. This will permit such

grantees to receive additional SIF dollars to continue their evaluation and effective implementation of their evidence-based, grant-funded activities and achieve the longer-term outcomes proposed as the purpose of their programs. This is consistent with the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which permits the renewal of grants for an additional 5-year period. The Committee further directs the Agency to permit current SIF grantees to be eligible to apply for additional SIF funds for projects not currently funded by SIF.

## NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL GRANTS

AmeriCorps State and National Grants. – The Committee recommends \$386,010,000 to support grants to community-based organizations and agencies to address local needs in education, public safety, health and the environment. These funds will also continue to support and invest in evidence-informed and evidence-based community solutions, providing a critical source of human capital to meet pressing needs across the country and a pathway to economic and educational opportunities for AmeriCorps members. The Committee also supports the use of evidence in the making of grant awards.

# <u>DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION - GENERAL PROVISION</u>

### PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP PILOTS

Performance Partnership Pilots. - The Committee continues a general provision establishing up to 10 performance partnership pilots designed to improve outcomes for disconnected youth. These pilots may be used to prevent youth from disconnecting from school or work, provide education, training, employment, and other related social services. All federal agencies throughout this Act may use a portion of their discretionary funds to participate in Performance Partnership Pilots.

### SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES <u>DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</u>

### SECOND CHANCE ACT OFFENDER RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS PAY FOR SUCCESS

Second Chance Act Pay for Success. – The Committee recommends bill language raising the set-aside for performance-based awards for Pay for Success projects under Second Chance Act Offender Re-entry program, from \$7,500,000 to \$20,000,000 and permits \$10,000,000 of those funds to be used to help implement the Permanent Supportive Housing Model, an increase of \$5,000,000 over last year's level.

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - GENERAL PROVISION PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP PILOTS

Performance Partnership Pilots Report Language. - The Committee recommends bill language which permits the Department to use federal discretionary funds through the Office of Justice Programs to participate with other Federal agencies in carrying out Performance Partnership Pilots.

#### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### **BUREAU OF THE CENSUS**

#### **EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING COMMISSION**

Evidence-based Policymaking Commission. – The Committee supports the creation of an evidence-based policymaking commission to conduct a comprehensive study of the data inventory, data infrastructure, and statistical protocols related to federal policymaking and the agencies responsible for maintaining that data. The Commission would determine the most effective arrangement for which administrative data on federal programs and tax expenditures may be integrated and made available to facilitate program

evaluation, policy-relevant research, and cost-benefit analyses. The Committee urges the Bureau to create the Commission on an expedited basis.

#### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

#### HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT – GENERAL PROVISION

*Performance Partnership Pilots.* - The Committee has included language permitting HUD to partner with other Federal agencies in the Performance Partnership Pilot program, a cross-Federal agency initiative serving disconnected youth through innovative, cost-effective, and outcome-focused strategies.

#### POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH - RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (R&T)

Office of Policy Development and Research - Transfer Authority. - The Committee has included bill language to provide authority to transfer up to \$120 million from program accounts to the R&T account for the categories of research and evaluations, and demonstrations; technical assistance; and capacity building. This transfer will provide a targeted source of funds to integrate evidence and cross-disciplinary intelligence throughout program policy, management, and operations.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED AGENCIES

#### **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

### UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPENT DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION VENTURES (DIV)

*Development Innovation Ventures.* - The Committee includes \$22,400,000 for DIV to invest in innovations that have the potential to change millions of lives in developing countries.

#### SUPPORT FOR MANDATORY PROGRAMS

To provide you with a complete picture of our evidence and evaluation requests, we have also included requests for mandatory funding that we support, while recognizing these programs fall outside the purview of your committee.

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV). - The Invest in What Works Coalition supports the Administration's FY'17 budget request of \$400,000,000 in mandatory funding in FY'17 and \$15,000,000,000 through FY'25 to extend and expand MIECHV, which permits states to provide voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services to women during pregnancy and to parents with young children.

Social Services Block Grant Program. - The Invest in What Works Coalition supports the provision in the Administration's FY'17 budget request which would allow the HHS Secretary to set aside up to 1.5 percent of Social Services Block Grant mandatory funds for research and evaluation.

Department of the Treasury - Pay for Success (PFS). - The Invest in What Works Coalition supports the Administration's FY'17 budget request of \$300,000,000 for a new PFS program within the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Funds would be used to encourage innovation and accelerate the use of evidence-based approaches, by lowering and sharing the risk associated with initial private investments, and enabling state and local governments to attract additional investment in services that result in Federal, State, and local government savings. The program will provide credit enhancements and results-based payments to eligible intermediaries.