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NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION

New York University
Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools
726 Broadway, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10003
Tel: 212-998-5104 Fax: 212-995-4199

June 1, 2017

Dear Member of Congress,

We, the members of the New York State Association for Bilingual Education (NYSABE), in collaboration with our partner organizations listed below, have read and concur with the concerns expressed in the May 23, 2017 statement by NYSED Commissioner Elia and NYS Regents Chancellor Rosa about cuts of over \$300 million to New York's educational services. Many of our students will be adversely impacted by these cruel and devastating budget cuts.

More specifically, while cuts will affect numerous essential programs in which all students, including ELL/multilingual learners, participate and benefit greatly, such as after-school programs, community learning centers, work-study, adult education and cultural programs; funding for English language acquisition programs, essential to the education of our students, will be cut by almost **3 million dollars**. Combined with reductions in funding for Civics classes for immigrants and refugees (\$1.5 million), college tuition assistance (\$50 million) and CTE (\$7.3 million), this will mean that our students will be ill prepared for college, careers and meaningful participation as citizens, Cuts to Title IIA professional development funding (\$166+ million) will result in our teachers being less prepared to meet the diverse needs of our students. Programs for students with disabilities, many of whom are also ELL/multilingual learners, will stand to lose over \$7 million.

We are reaching out to you, our elected officials, to express our grave concerns and ask you to join us in opposing the proposed federal budget for 2018, that will unfairly impact education in New York State. Our students and families deserve much better than this and we need our representatives in Congress to ensure that our students receive the programs and services essential to their success.

Sincerely,

Tamara O. Alsace, PhD, NYSABE President
NYSABE Board of Directors

Co-Signers

Advocates for Children of New York
Association of Dominican American Supervisors and Administrators (ADASA)
Buffalo Public Schools-Multilingual Education Advisory Committee (BPS MEAC)
Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York, Inc.
Ibero-American Action League, Inc.
New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYSFLT)
New York State Council of Educational Associations (NYSCEA)
New York State Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (NYS TESOL)
The Association of Chinese-English Bilingual Educators-East Coast, USA