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**CAPE member
organizations:**

Agudath Israel
of America
American Montessori
Society
Association Montessori
International—USA
Association of Christian
Teachers and Schools
Association of Christian
Schools International
Association of Waldorf
Schools of N.A.
Christian Schools
International
Council of Islamic Schools
in North America
Council on Educational
Standards and
Accountability
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
Friends Council
on Education
Islamic Schools League
of America
Jesuit Schools Network
Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod
National Association of
Episcopal Schools
National Association of
Independent Schools
National Catholic
Educational Association
National Christian
School Association
Oral Roberts University
Educational Fellowship
Seventh-day Adventist
Board of Education
United States Conference
of Catholic Bishops
Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod Schools
Affiliated State
Organizations

December 13, 2017

To: The Honorable Members of the U.S. Congress

Re: Funding for Title II-A

Just two years after enacting the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), Congress is considering whether to fund or eliminate the component of that act that deals with the professional development of teachers. Title II, Part A focuses on improving the quality and effectiveness of educators, with the ultimate goal of improving student achievement. The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved \$2 billion in funding for Title II-A for FY 2018, but the spending bill passed by the House provides no funding whatsoever for the program. The Council for American Private Education (CAPE), whose members are the organizations listed left, strongly supports the Senate's \$2 billion funding level and urges all members of Congress to encourage leaders, appropriators, and conference committee members to fund the program at that amount.

Teachers in religious and independent schools have greatly benefited from Title II-A throughout the program's long history. During the most recent reauthorization, the private school community worked very hard to ensure that equitable services for educators in private schools would be calculated based on a school district's total allocation of funds under Title II-A. With that provision now in place, it is even more important to our community to retain adequate levels of funding for the program.

We urge you to help ensure that the final FY 2018 spending bill includes \$2 billion for Title II-A to help teachers across the country improve their capacity to educate the children in their care.

Respectfully submitted,



Joe McTighe
Executive Director