March 22, 2018

On behalf of the National Alliance of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (NASISP), we applaud Congress for passing legislation that provides increased investments in education. We appreciate the modest increases for Title I and IDEA in the Omnibus Appropriations Act. Although we are disappointed that Title II of ESSA did not receive an increase, we are pleased to see that this program will maintain the same level of funding for FY18, if this legislation is passed. Importantly, we applaud Congress for recognizing the importance of a well-rounded education, efforts to promote safe and healthy students, and the effective use of technology in our schools by proposing $1.1 Billion for Title IV-A of the Every Student Succeeds Act. Collectively, these funds will provide schools and districts with the needed investments to provide high quality professional development and training on such important issues, which include school climate, school safety, trauma informed practices, meeting the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse learners, improving outcomes for students with disabilities, and early identification and intervention of students with barriers to learning. Furthermore, these funds will allow schools to implement evidence based programming to support student health and safety, increase access to school based mental health services, provide comprehensive health services, offer a well-rounded curriculum, and help schools meet the diverse needs of their unique student populations. Specialized instructional support personnel are critical to this effort.

NASISP represents over 1 million Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP) who provide, and support school-based prevention and intervention services to address educational barriers. SISP work to increase educational success, ensure positive conditions for learning, and help all students achieve academically to ultimately become productive citizens, and we look forward to working with our colleagues to help states, districts, and local education professionals develop and implement comprehensive service delivery systems and evidence based programming to foster a safe and supportive school climate to meet the needs of all students in our diverse society. To learn more about NASISP and SISP, visit www.nasisp.org.

We urge members of Congress to support these increased funding levels in future, appropriations cycles. These federal investments are vital to provide all students with access to a full complement of specialized instructional support personnel, and the critical services we provide.

Sincerely,

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