



National Coalition
of Classified
Education Support
Employee Unions
ONE MILLION STRONG



**California School
Employees Association**

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Dear Member of Congress:

The National Coalition of Classified Education Support Employee Unions, representing nearly a million education support employees in the nation's public schools, would like to add to the growing list of voices describing the devastating impact the sequester cuts have had on students, schools and classified school employees (education support professionals) and urge you to **act now to end the damaging effects of sequestration.**

We urge Congress to replace the across-the-board cuts now in place with a balanced approach that requires America's wealthiest citizens and largest corporations to pay their fair share of taxes. Nationwide, the across-the-board cuts are negatively impacting the education of 7.4 million students and could cost nearly 50,000 educators and classified school employees their jobs, further weakening the overall economy at a time Congress should be focused on helping to create jobs. As just one example, closing the loophole that allows corporations to defer taxes on offshore profits could generate some \$600 billion in revenue over 10 years, or nearly twice the \$337 billion needed to fully fund the federal share of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Sequestration slashed federal education funding by a total of \$2.8 billion. Funding specifically to the U.S. Department of Education has been cut by \$2.4 billion, moving us backward nine years to below the FY 2004 level, even though our classified school employees and all educators are now serving nearly 6 million *more* students. Critical programs have already been cut, including Title I aid to high-poverty schools, hurting 1.18 million students and eliminating 9,900 jobs; IDEA funds for students with disabilities, impacting 296,000 children with disabilities and eliminating 7,800 jobs; and Head Start, affecting 70,000 students and over 19,000 jobs, among many others. Head Start funding has been reduced by \$400 million. These cuts are hurting children and students *right now.*

These cuts mean more students crammed into already overcrowded classrooms, shorter school weeks, 4-year-olds cheated out of early childhood education, and dreams dashed for aspiring college students. The impact is harshest on the students who are in most need of help and can least afford to take more hits, including students in high-poverty communities and students with disabilities. Title I has lost over \$756 million in funding and IDEA grants have lost nearly \$603 million in funding. The damage already being done is irreparable and must be stopped for the millions of children these cuts harm. Students in special education classrooms have to cope with fewer instructors and paraeducators, which harms the neediest of students. These classified school employees and their colleagues are the backbone of every school in the country--we must ensure they can continue the vital and important work they do every day.

The time is now to fix the damage already being inflicted on the neediest of our students and children, and to prevent any further cuts.

Sincerely,

Lily Eskelsen Garcia
Chair, NCCESEU
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