

Dear [Member of Congress's Name],

I hope this email finds you well. As a concerned constituent and advocate for quality education, I am writing to express my strong support for AACTE’s FY2024 Appropriations Requests and the organization’s endorsed legislation that can significantly impact our education system and address critical challenges faced by educators.

To address the growing educator shortage and ensure a diverse and profession-ready educator workforce, I urge you to prioritize the following program funding levels for FY 2024:

1. Teacher Quality Partnership Grants: Allocating $1 billion to support this crucial grant program will enhance teacher preparation and residency programs, strengthen principal and school leader preparation, and address the need for specialized support personnel.
2. Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence Program: I request $300 million in funding for this program, which plays a vital role in supporting teacher preparation at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), tribal colleges and universities (TCUs), and other minority-serving institutions.
3. Special Education Personnel Preparation: Please allocate $300 million to support the training and preparation of special education personnel, ensuring that students with disabilities receive the support they need to succeed.
4. Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: I strongly advocate for $3 billion in funding for this program, specifically to support the Supporting Effective Instruction program. These funds are essential for providing professional development opportunities and resources for educators, ultimately benefiting students across our nation.
5. American History and Civics Education Program: I urge you to allocate $73 million to this program, which promotes the teaching of American history and civics to foster engaged and informed citizens.
6. Department of Labor's Registered Apprenticeship Program: Please prioritize funding of $335 million for this program, which offers valuable opportunities for individuals seeking alternative paths to gain practical skills and enter the workforce.

In addition to the appropriations, I urge you to support and champion the following endorsed legislation that can significantly improve educator preparation and strengthen the educator workforce:

1. EDUCATORS for America Act: This bill, if passed, would provide vital resources by authorizing $500 million annually to support states in meeting their educator workforce needs and an additional $500 million to education preparation and programs. It also focuses on ensuring inclusivity and equity within the teaching profession, supporting the recruitment, preparation, and retention of teachers from diverse backgrounds.
2. Diversify Act: By ending annual cuts to the TEACH Grant award and expanding eligibility for early childhood educators, this legislation takes crucial steps toward promoting a diverse and qualified educator workforce. I encourage you to support this bill to safeguard the future of our education system.
3. Pay Teachers Act: The significant increase in federal investments outlined in this bill can have a transformative impact on our public schools and the teaching profession. By diversifying the teacher pipeline, improving resource equity, and establishing a minimum salary of $60,000 for teachers, this legislation addresses pressing challenges faced by educators.
4. The Loan Forgiveness for Educators Act: As educators play a vital role in shaping our society, it is crucial to support them by reforming the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program. This bill expands program eligibility, incentivizes service in high-need schools and early education programs, and ensures loan forgiveness benefits for educators facing changing circumstances.

I strongly believe that by supporting these appropriations and endorsed legislation, we can make significant strides in creating an equitable and high-quality education system. These measures will not only benefit educators but also have a profound impact on the lives of students and communities across our nation.

For further information I have attached AACTE’s legislative priorities. If you would like to discuss these matters in more detail, I encourage you to reach out to AACTE’s Vice President of Organizational Advancement, Dr. Weade James, at wjames@aacte.org.

With appreciation,

1602 L Street, N.W. Suite 601

Washington, DC 20036

Tel: (202) 293-2450

Fax: (202) 457-8095

[www.aacte.org](http://www.aacte.org/)

aacte@aacte.org