

**CEF call-in Days to Urge Congress to Increase Education Funding**

**Call the House of Representatives on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019**

**Call the Senate on Friday, Dec. 6, 2019**

**Overview**

Policymakers are influenced by what their constituents want, and we are asking for your help in urging Congress to increase federal education funding — investments that make a real difference every day in the lives of students, teachers, families, schools and communities. Congress is this week trying to settle on funding levels for all fiscal year 2020 appropriations bills, so this is your chance to tell your Members of Congress that you want them to give education funding its fair share. Congress has already agreed to spend more on domestic and defense programs for 2020, but still needs to agree on levels for each program. Funding for the Department of Education has been stagnant for years, and is now more than $7 billion below the 2011 level in inflation-adjusted dollars.

**On Thursday, December 5 – call your Representative in the US House**

**Step 1: Call your Representative in the House toll-free starting on Thursday at 877-682-6145** (this line will remain open until the bill is finalized, so if you can’t make it Thursday you can call on Friday!). Once you enter your zip code, you will automatically be connected to your Representative.

**Step 2: Urge your Representative to increase federal education funding**.

**Sample script:**

“Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a constituent from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I am calling to urge my Representative to increase federal education investments in the bill funding the Department of Education that Congress is working on now. Investments in education are vital for students, families, communities, and the U.S. economy. (provide a specific example if you want to). I urge the Representative to work hard to increase education funding. Thank you.”

**Step 3: Tweet your support after you make your call**, tagging your Representative. You can find the twitter addresses in the attached list.

 **Sample tweets:**

I have called my Member of Congress [include the twitter address] to support more education funding for FY 2020. Federal #edfunding is now $7 billion below the 2011 level in inflation-adjusted terms.

*(chart to attach: Education Investment is $7 Billion below 2011 level)*

Join me in urging your Members of Congress to increase federal education investments in the government funding bills now being drafted. The public strongly supports more #edfunding [include twitter address(es) for your Members of Congress].

*(chart to attach:  Poll- Public supports ED funding)*

**On Friday, December 6 – call your Senator**

**Step 1: Call your Senator toll-free starting on Friday at 877-582-2913** (line will remain open until the bill is finalized, which may be next week). One you enter your zip code, you will automatically be connected to one of the Senators for your state.

**Step 2: Urge your Senator to increase federal education funding**.

**Sample script:**

“Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a constituent from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I am calling to urge my Senator to increase federal education investments in the bill funding the Department of Education that Congress is working on now. Investments in education are vital for students, families, communities, and the U.S. economy. (provide a specific example if you want to). I urge the Senator to work hard to increase education funding. Thank you.”

**Step 3: Tweet your support after you make your call**, tagging your Senator. You can find the twitter addresses in the attached list. See the sample tweets on the first page.

**Additional Background Information:**

 **You can find your Members of Congress** directly by typing your address at this site: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members>

**See proposed funding for key education programs** on the Committee for Education Funding (CEF) website at: <https://cef.org/wp-content/uploads/CEFs-FY-2020-Funding-Table-Senate-proposal-on-9.18.19.pdf>

**Attachments:**

* List of twitter addresses for Members of Congress
* Charts to attach to sample tweets