

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 23, 2025

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We are writing to urge the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee to provide no funding for the U.S. Department of Education in Fiscal Year 2026. We share President Trump's commitment to bring education back to local control and close the Department of Education.

On March 20, 2025, President Trump signed an executive order directing the Secretary of Education, Linda McMahon, to dismantle the Department of Education and return authority to the states.¹ This will not remove federal funding for mandated programs, such as Title I funding, which will be absorbed by other agencies.

Students' test scores are plummeting. Last year in Minnesota, 45.5% of students were proficient in math and 49.9% were proficient in reading, which is approximately a 10% drop in both math and reading when compared to 2019 scores.² It is evident that our education system is broken. While there are many factors for this decline, including remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is evident that federal overreach is lessening the quality of students' education.

We respectfully request that the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee provide no funds for the Department of Education. By defunding the Department of Education, we are putting our students' education first. Dismantling the Department of Education will end federal overreach and allow states, parents, and school districts to take control of education and improve children's learning outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and please know that our offices is willing to assist your efforts in whatever way possible.

¹ *Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Empowers Parents, States, and Communities to Improve Education Outcomes*. (2025, March 20). The White House. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/03/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-empowers-parents-states-and-communities-to-improve-education-outcomes/>

² Rantala, J. (2024, August 29). *Under half of Minnesota students are proficient in reading and math, test scores show*. CBS News. <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/under-half-of-minnesota-students-are-proficient-in-reading-and-math-test-scores-show/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Emmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Emmer" clearly distinguishable.

Tom Emmer
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pete Stauber". The signature is cursive, with "Pete" and "Stauber" written in a connected style.

Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Fischbach". The signature is cursive, with "Michelle" and "Fischbach" written in a connected style.

Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Finstad". The signature is cursive, with "Brad" and "Finstad" written in a connected style.

Brad Finstad
Member of Congress