



Dear Kentucky Congressman,

The Kentucky Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (KAHPERD) has worked tirelessly with all shareholders throughout our state's process for [implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#). For the first time in the history of this funding there is finally an opportunity for all students to receive effective health and physical education programs as part of a well-rounded education. As part of the school health community, I was thrilled that Congress chose to prioritize these subjects that are so critical to supporting students and their learning.

As the Executive Director of KAHPERD, I'm writing to ask that you fully fund the Student Support and Academic Enrichment program under Title IV, Part A of ESSA for FY19 at the authorized level of \$1.6 billion. This grant program allows districts to invest in well-rounded education programs, safe and healthy school programs, and the effective use of technology. Ensuring students have safe and healthy learning environments, access to health education, physical education and mental health supports is crucial to their well-being and success in school.

Despite the President's request to eliminate the program and the recognition that FY17 funding levels were simply too low to allow the program to operate as intended, Congress recognized the importance of this block grant and provided \$1.1 billion for Title IV, Part A in FY18. At this funding level, many districts will receive enough funds and have the flexibility to make meaningful investments in the program areas they need most. Additionally, this funding level allows the flexible block grant to operate as Congress intended, as a formula grant that benefits all districts equitably.

If this program is fully funded at \$1.6 billion, even more districts and students will have access to the programs and support that they so desperately need and deserve.

KY/ESSA Resources:

https://www.shapeamerica.org/uploads/pdfs/KY-state_advocacy_fact_sheet.pdf

https://www.shapeamerica.org/advocacy/State-Toolkits/kentucky_Toolkit.aspx

<https://50million.shapeamerica.org/2017/11/kentucky-health-and-pe-teachers-mobilize/>

Thank you very much for your consideration,

Jamie Sparks

KAHPERD Executive Director