**Redraft Letter and Talking Points for Title IIA Advocacy Outreach**

**Sample E-mail**

Dear \_\_\_\_,

I am writing as a constituent, as an educator, and as a leader in my community to strongly urge you to support a $150 million increase for Title II, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act in fiscal year 2022 appropriations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shined a spotlight on the importance of well-prepared educators – whether virtual or in-person – to the success of our nation’s students. During these incredibly challenging times, educators strived to meet the academic and mental health needs of their students, even while they struggled with the COVID-19 pandemic themselves. Now, as we enter a third academic year with the COVID-19 pandemic still taking a toll, it is vital that the federal government provide even more support to retain the existing educator workforce by offering research-based professional learning opportunities, mentoring and coaching. It is also important that the federal government help schools attract new talent to the classrooms through supporting educator recruitment efforts.

Title II, Part A, a formula grant program that provides critical funding to states and school districts to prepare, train, recruit, and retain high-quality educators, is exactly the program that can help us ensure that all students receive an excellent education. While the three COVID relief laws provided billions of dollars to states and schools to assist with in-person reopening and to help bring students back up to speed academically, they did not contain funds focused directly on the professional learning needs of our educators. From my perspective, COVID relief dollars are no substitute for regular, annualized funding allocations that our schools receive through Title II-A for professional learning. Moreover, Title II-A has been consistently funded below its authorized funding level and the House’s $150 million increase would represent the most significant funding increase for this program in more than a decade.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to consider supporting at least a $150 million funding increase for Title II, Part A in the forthcoming FY2022 Labor HHS Education Appropriations bill.

I and all of our nation’s educators and students will benefit and applaud such an important vote in support of public education.

Thank you for your consideration and for your support of our nation's educators and students.

Sincerely,

[Educator’s name]

**Talking Points**

* The House approved FY22 Labor HHS Education Appropriations bill contains a much needed $150 million increase for Title II, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act.
* Title II-A is the only federal funding dedicated to professional learning for all teachers and leaders and must be fully funded for teachers and principals to meet the needs of the students they educate.
* The stress of teaching in the COVID-19 era has triggered a spike in retirements and resignations, so there is an urgent need to provide the necessary resources to teachers and school leaders to help alleviate difficulties and reduce burnout.
* In order to be able to retain existing educators and recruit new ones, we simply must have more federal support for ongoing, job-embedded, school-based professional learning, mentoring, and coaching.
* The $150 million increase by the House is warranted because Title II-A has been consistently underfunded and would represent the most significant funding increase for this program in more than a decade.
* Finally, while Congress approved significant short-term COVID relief dollars, those funds are no substitute for regular, annualized funding allocations that our schools receive through Title II-A for professional learning.