NASP Opposes Drastic Cuts in House FY24 Education Spending Bill

Bethesda, MD—The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) is appalled by the proposed cuts to education funding in the House Labor, Health, and Human Services (LHHS) Subcommittee’s FY24 Appropriations bill. Following several years of historic investments in education, school mental and behavioral health, and initiatives to advance equity in education, the House LHHS’s bill for the FY24 appropriations cycle proposes to not only roll back this recent progress, but dramatically cut vital funding that ensures schools provide safe, supportive, inclusive, and non-discriminatory environments for all students. The funding levels included in this bill are entirely insufficient both for the health of our public school system and the well-being of our nation’s youth and the professionals who support them.

We are especially concerned by the disproportionate harm this bill would do to historically minoritized and marginalized communities, including low-income students and their families, LGBTQ+ youth, and English Language Learners. The divestment from federal programs supporting schools serving these young people and the hampering of regulations ensuring equity and inclusion in our schools would make all our nation’s children less safe in their schools, allow discrimination against millions of young people, allow for the continued censorship in curricula, and impede the ability of educators to support their students.

Finally, this bill significantly hampers our ability to address the youth mental health crisis. Our schools and communities continue to experience a dire shortage of school psychologists and other school mental health professionals and this bill would undercut current efforts and make it far more difficult to train, recruit, and retain the professionals needed to support student well-being. NASP is committed to working with members of Congress to rectify the problems in the House LHHS subcommittee’s bill and ensure that the final FY24 appropriations package contains robust investments in public education.