



March 6, 2006

Honorable Jim Nussle
Chairman
House Budget Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable John Spratt
Ranking Member
House Budget Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nussle and Ranking Member Spratt:

The National Alliance of Pupil Services Organizations (NAPSO) is very concerned that the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2007 eliminates funding for many critical programs that support pupil services personnel. As you prepare the fiscal year 2007 Budget Resolution, we urge you to oppose the cuts to these programs which have significant impact on the success of all students.

NAPSO is a coalition of national professional organizations whose members provide and support a variety of school-based prevention and intervention services to assist students in becoming effective learners and productive citizens. NAPSO organizations represent over a million members, including school counselors, school nurses, psychologists and school psychologists, social workers and school social workers, occupational, physical, and creative arts therapists, speech-language pathologists and audiologists, teachers, administrators, and parents. NAPSO promotes interdisciplinary practice and cooperation and advocates for ensuring access to quality related services for all students.

Pupil services personnel provide a variety of prevention and intervention services for all students that promote effective classroom learning and teaching. They collaborate with teachers and other school staff to ensure that students receive high quality instruction, addressing both the broad range of learning differences and social and emotional barriers to academic success.

The President has proposed eliminating several programs of importance to pupil services personnel, including the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Program (ESSCP); Comprehensive School Reform; Safe and Drug-Free Schools State Grants; Carl D. Perkins (vocational education); School Dropout Prevention; Mental Health Integration in Schools; GEAR UP; and TRIO's Talent Search and Upward Bound. These programs provide the means for pupil services personnel to help with students' academic, career, social and personal success so that students can achieve their fullest potential.

Congress made a commitment to ensuring our children's educational success, and pupil services personnel play an essential role in this important goal. We appreciate the competing priorities in the coming fiscal year 2007 budget resolution and urge you to oppose the cuts proposed by the President's fiscal year 2007 budget request so that our students have every opportunity to succeed. Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Chris Campbell at ccampbell@counseling.org, Myrna Mandlawitz at mandlawitz@verizon.net, or Neil Snyder at nsnyder@asha.org.

Sincerely,

Chris Campbell
NAPSO Co-Chair

Myrna Mandlawitz
NAPSO Co-Chair

Neil Snyder
NAPSO Co-Chair

Cc: House Budget Committee