June 7, 2004

The Honorable George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

On behalf of the National Association of Secondary School Principal’s nearly 32,000 members nationwide, I would like to express extreme disappointment in the request you made in a recent memo to the Department of Education. This memo, made public on May 27th, suggests that you are requesting that the Department formulate a FY2006 budget with $1.5 billion less than what you requested for FY2005. This would amount to a roughly 3% cut that would be devastating to our nations schools.

Trimming $1.5 billion from the Department’s budget would either negate your requested increases for Title I and special education or force major cuts beyond the roughly $1 billion worth of other programs at the Department. These programs, such as Comprehensive School Reform, School Leadership and Dropout Prevention, are critically important to secondary schools and if cut, would be overwhelming considering the budget difficulties that our schools already face.

Mr. President, I appreciate your dedication to education, however, I do not understand how these proposed cuts support your commitment. Our nations principals have made a promise to provide students with the best education possible, but how can you expect them to fulfill this promise without sufficient resources to do the job?

I ask that you and your Administration reconsider the request to cut funding from the Department of Education in 2006. In a time when state budgets are cutting education funding and schools are being held to higher standards under No Child Left Behind, we must be able to rely on the federal government to remain dedicated to education and make it a high priority.

Sincerely,

Gerald N. Tirozzi, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

cc: Secretary Rod Paige, U.S. Department of Education