

April 26, 2016

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives

Chairmen Blunt and Cole, Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

The undersigned organizations urge you to reject the Administration's Fiscal Year 2017 budget proposal to eliminate funding for Impact Aid Federal Properties.

When Impact Aid was created in 1950, the federal government accepted the responsibility of a citizen, a business owner, or a landlord in helping to finance public education – in areas with a federal presence. Today, Impact Aid provides critical funding to over 1,300 public school districts nationwide that educate military children, children residing on Indian lands, children living in federal low-rent housing facilities, children of civilian employees of the federal government, and the children in school districts with significant tax-exempt federal property.

The budget request recommends the elimination of funding for Impact Aid (Title VII), Section 7002 (Federal Properties) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Currently, this \$67 million line item provides funding to over 200 school districts in 29 states as a replacement for the lost local revenue caused by the federal presence. Each of these school districts is unique – eligible property includes national parks, grasslands and laboratories, Army Corps of Engineers projects, and both the Air Force and West Point Military Academies – however, they all face the same financial challenge: a loss of taxable property and, as a result, a loss of local revenue, but just as many students to educate. In some communities, the federal government is the largest landowner; many federal property school districts are small and in rural areas.

Funding must be maintained for the benefit of all students in these districts. Cuts would cause financial harm as Impact Aid supports personnel and professional development, academic materials, transportation, technology, and other general operating expenses. Elimination of this funding stream would be a reversal on a 67-year commitment to federally impacted communities. We urge you to continue funding Impact Aid Federal Properties.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association  
Air Force Sergeants Association  
Air Force Women Officers Associated  
American Association of Classified School Employees  
American Counseling Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Federation of School Administrators

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO  
American Library Association  
American School Counselor Association  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
Arizona State Impact Aid Association  
Association for Career and Technical Education  
Association of Educational Service Agencies  
Association of School Business Officials International  
Association of the United States Army  
California Association of Federally Impacted Schools  
California School Employees Association  
Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association, USCG  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Council of the Great City Schools  
Easter Seals  
FED ED  
Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Fleet Reserve Association  
Impact Schools of South Dakota  
Indian Impact Schools of Montana  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Magnet Schools of America  
Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)  
Mid-to-Low LOT Association  
Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)  
Military Impacted Schools Association  
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
National Association of Counties (NACo)  
National Association of Elementary School Principals  
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
National Association of State Directors of Special Education  
National Congress of American Indians  
National Coalition of Classified Education Support Employee Unions (NCCSEEU)  
National Council for Impacted Schools  
National Education Association  
National Indian Education Association  
National Indian Impacted Schools Association  
National Military Family Association  
National PTA  
National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition  
National Rural Education Association  
National School Boards Association  
National Superintendents Roundtable  
National Title I Association  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association  
Oklahoma Association Serving Impacted Schools

Organizations Concerned about Rural Education  
Rebuild America's Schools  
Rural School and Community Trust  
School Social Work Association of America  
Texas Association of Federally Impacted Schools  
U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association  
United States Army Warrant Officers Association  
Washington State Impact Aid Association

Cc:

Senate Impact Aid Coalition  
House Impact Aid Coalition

