

August 14, 2019

Dear Member of Congress,

The undersigned organizations write in support of H.R. 3647, the Impact Aid Infrastructure Act, and urge you to co-sponsor this important legislation, which would invest in the facilities of federally impacted school districts. Since 1950 – when the Impact Aid program was established – Congress has recognized the Federal obligation to fund construction at federally impacted school districts.

Federally impacted school districts are located on or near nontaxable Federal property, including military installations; Indian Trust, Treaty and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; Federal low-income housing facilities; and national forests, dams and other Federal buildings and property. Because of the presence of the Federal government, these districts often have limited taxable property, minimal assessed land value and/or few local taxpayers. Therefore, they lack the capacity to raise funds for school construction in the way that most public school districts do, including through issuing bonds. It is the responsibility of the Federal government to make up for the lack of local resources caused by its presence and fund facility repairs and modernization to provide a safe, healthy and modern learning environment for students.

This legislation would provide a one-time infusion of funds into the existing Impact Aid construction appropriations line – meaning the expertise to review, distribute and monitor the proposed funding already exists within the Impact Aid Program Office at the U.S. Department of Education.

A recent survey by the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools identified more than \$4.2 billion in pressing construction projects in 218 federally impacted school districts nationwide. These projects include emergency repairs for health and safety – such as roof and foundation maintenance, asbestos abatement, mold remediation and addressing fire code violations; modernization to implement technology infrastructure for today's digital classrooms; and increasing building capacity due to rising enrollments.

By authorizing a one-time infusion of funding, the Impact Aid Infrastructure Act aims to address these needs and fulfill the Federal government's long-standing responsibility to these school districts.

Again, we urge you to co-sponsor H.R. 3647, the Impact Aid infrastructure Act, to ensure that federally impacted school districts have access to critical infrastructure funding they need to provide a quality education for all of their students. Should you have any questions or wish to cosponsor, please contact Amanda Stayton (amanda.stayton@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Cox (D-CA) or Alex Ortiz (alex.ortiz@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Young (R-AK).

Sincerely,

AASA: The School Superintendents Association
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of School Business Officials International
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association
Mid-To-Low LOT Schools

Military Child Education Coalition
Military Impacted Schools Association
National Association of Federally 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
Organizations Concerned about Rural Education
Rebuild America's Schools