

Senator Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Richard Shelby
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Nita Lowey
Chairwoman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Kay Granger
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 18, 2020

Dear Congressional Leadership,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing the nation's educators and education leaders—those doing great work to keep our nation's students learning and supported in these unprecedented circumstances—we write to express our strong, unified support for clear, direct and immediate bipartisan efforts to provide both policy and fiscal relief to state and local education agencies.

The nation's state chiefs, superintendents, state and local school board members, principals, teachers, educators and school and student support staff are working around the clock to support students, teachers, school staff and parents on what matters most right now in this unprecedented public health crisis: their health and safety. We are navigating challenges, such as providing meals, quality instruction and child care for essential personnel, in an environment that has never previously existed. To the extent that the federal government can provide flexibility via waivers and inject funding to support state and local capacity to address the impact of COVID-19 the education system and students, such leadership will bolster and support the critical work going on in our nation's communities.

We stand ready to work with you on this important investment.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association
American Federation of Teachers
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Council of Chief State School Officers
Council of Great City Schools
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Boards of Education

National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Education Association
National PTA
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium
National Rural Education Association
National School Boards Association

CC: Senator Lamar Alexander
Senator Patty Murray
Representative Bobby Scott
Representative Virginia Foxx