

**STATEMENT OF 17 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS
ON SENATE COVID-19 RESPONSE BILL:
March 24, 2020**

“As representatives of the K-12 public and private schools, administrators, educators, parents and students who are attempting to continue teaching and learning during this national emergency, we are shocked and dismayed by recent reports that suggest that Congress will not provide *direct funding* for remote and distance learning in this bill. While we appreciate that connectivity and devices to facilitate remote and distance learning will be *allowable uses* – along with numerous other items – of the Education Stabilization Fund included within it, ***we cannot understand Congress’ reluctance to provide adequate direct funding for hotspots, connection devices and mobile wireless service through the long-standing and very effective E-Rate program.*** We view the potential outcome of this bill as a missed opportunity for Congress to address the real and urgent problem of the homework gap, which denotes the between 7 and 12 million K-12 students, many of who live in rural areas or are from low-income families, that lack Internet access at home. We urge Congress to include in the final bill the robust remote and distance learning provisions found in the House’s version of this bill and ensure that all students can continue their education online for the duration of this national emergency.”

AASA: The School Superintendents Association
American Federation of School Administrators
American Federation of Teachers
Association of Education Service Agencies
Association of School Business Officials International
Consortium for School Networking
International Society for Technology in Education
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Independent Schools
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Catholic Educational Association
National Education Association
National PTA
National Rural Education Association
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium
National School Boards Association
State Educational Technology Directors Association