

May 15, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Doris Matsui
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kamala Harris
U.S. Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ami Bera

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Therefore, we respectfully request your support for a fifth coronavirus response package that provides the following:

Directing \$500 billion in vitally needed resources for State Fiscal Relief, and \$375 billion for Local Fiscal Relief. These funds will take pressure off school budgets and help states, cities, and counties with the fiscal impacts from the public health emergency caused by the coronavirus.

An additional \$175 billion in federal relief funds for distribution directly to local school systems in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. This relief would reduce, not eliminate, cuts to teachers and other staff, cuts to educational programs, and cuts to supports for students. The Heroes Act currently includes about \$100 billion for schools.

Provide an additional \$13 billion for the increased costs of serving special education students with IEPs during the COVID-19 crisis. As a separate matter, Congress should direct the Secretary of Education to temporarily waive IDEA regulations and requirements that have little impact on the delivery of services but add significant administrative burdens.

Create a \$2 billion fund within the E-Rate program to reimburse schools for increased costs related to connectivity and devices necessary for new learning environments.

Provide \$3 billion in emergency relief funding to ensure that schools are reimbursed for all meals distributed to students and their families during this crisis. Schools are acting in good faith to make sure students and families in need have access to food, and may not be able to strictly comply with all pre-COVID-19 meal eligibility rules.

Thank you for your consideration and support. These unprecedented times call for decisive action by our leaders at all levels of government. The reality is that reopening our schools for in-classroom instruction will require more – **not less** – resources to ensure and sustain proper implementation of public health guidance. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or want to learn more about how your local schools are serving students and families every day.

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Sincerely,

David W. Gordon