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February 25, 2019

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our three million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to VOTE YES on H.R. 276, which directs the Secretary of Education to establish the Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Award Program for education support professionals (ESPs) who provide essential services to students from pre-K-to grade 12. Votes associated with this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

NEA represents 500,000 ESPs in nine career categories:

- Child nutrition services
- Clerical services
- Custodial and maintenance services
- Health and student services
- Paraeducators
- Security services
- Skilled trades
- Technical services
- Transportation services

An integral part of the education system, ESPs promote student achievement, ensure student safety, and help establish a good school climate. Whether driving a bus, working in a computer lab, helping students and teachers in the classroom, serving lunch to students, or making sure the building is clean, they are essential to creating learning environments that help students reach their fullest potential.

We urge you to VOTE YES on H.R. 276 to recognize the hard work, dedication, skills, and expertise of our nation's ESPs.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association