

January 23, 2019

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our three million members and the 50 million students they serve, we strongly urge you to VOTE NO on the McConnell / Shelby proposal (amendment #5 to H.R. 268) to provide \$5.7 billion for a permanent border wall in exchange for temporary protection for certain recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). At the same time, we urge you to VOTE YES on the Schumer proposal (amendment #6 to H.R. 268), a package of House-passed appropriations bills that would reopen the government until Feb. 8. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's report card for the 116th Congress.

**Impact of the shutdown is spreading — and worsening**

- This Friday, some 800,000 furloughed public servants will miss their second paycheck — and the administration has ordered more than half of them to keep working without pay.
- If the shutdown continues into March, schools will face an unprecedented crisis: the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs, which provide free and reduced-price meals for 30 million and 14.5 million children, respectively, will run out of funding. Already, some school districts are rolling back services out of concern that funds will not reach them.
- College students can't access the tax return transcripts they need for financial aid applications.
- As many as 9 million students in 41 states will suffer if school districts funded by the Secure Rural Schools Act do not receive their March payments.

**McConnell / Trump proposal falls short**

- The shutdown is a manufactured crisis that is harming families, communities, and the economy.
- The McConnell / Trump proposal is worse than the status quo for DACA recipients and makes it virtually impossible for Central American children to seek asylum.
- As a co-equal branch of government, the Senate can simultaneously end the shutdown and open negotiations over border security.

**What America's educators would like to see**

- Reopen the government immediately.
- Resume negotiations and start governing responsibly.

On behalf of America's students and educators, we strongly urge you to VOTE NO on the McConnell / Trump proposal and to VOTE YES on the Schumer proposal.

Sincerely,



Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association