



Great Public Schools  
for Every Student

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September 24, 2019

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to VOTE YES on S. J. Res. 54 to terminate President Trump's declaration of a national emergency and preserve critical funding for public schools on military bases. Votes associated with this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

The current and previous Congress rejected the president's demands to appropriate billions of dollars for a wall on our Southern border. In response, in February 2019, he declared a national emergency to facilitate an end-run around Congress and fulfill a campaign promise.

Trump has directed the Department of Defense to divert \$3.6 billion already appropriated by Congress to building the wall Mexico was supposed to pay for—a demand that would rob public schools and childcare facilities on military bases of nearly half a billion dollars. Projects that would be deferred—or cancelled outright—include remediating hazardous mold at the Child Development Center at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland and refurbishing a severely overcrowded school at Fort Campbell in Kentucky. Public schools on military bases in Puerto Rico, Italy, Okinawa, and Germany would also lose critical funding.

The president's actions threaten the separation of powers that is fundamental to our system of government. Congress, the legislative branch, is co-equal to the executive branch. The U.S. Constitution explicitly grants the power of the purse to the legislative branch in Article I, Section 9, Clause 7, which says, "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ."

This issue transcends partisan politics—it is a matter of remaining true to the U.S. Constitution and the rule of law. VOTE YES on S.J. Res. 54 to end the pretext of a national emergency that is giving the president license to undermine Congress, the rule of law, and democracy itself.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association

