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December 10, 2019

Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. 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 support the Restoring Tax Fairness for States and Localities Act and the Support American Teachers Act of 2019 during tomorrow's markup. Votes associated with these issues may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

The Restoring Tax Fairness for States and Localities Act lifts the cap on the state and local tax (SALT) deduction in 2020 and 2021. As you know, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 capped the SALT deduction at \$10,000 for individuals and families, but not businesses—yet another example of taking from working families to provide tax giveaways for corporations. The cap also threatens the ability of states and local communities to fund education and other essential public services adequately.

In addition, we strongly support the Support American Teachers Act of 2019 to increase the annual educator tax deduction from \$250 to \$500. When students come to school without basic learning tools, educators reach into their own pockets to buy classroom supplies and instructional materials. A U.S. Department of Education survey found that 94 percent of America's public school teachers made such expenditures during the 2014-15 school year; on average, they spent about \$500 and nearly 1 in 10 spent more than \$1,000.

NEA thanks you for taking up this important legislation and stands ready to work with you to advance it.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association