



Great Public Schools
for Every Student

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December 16, 2019

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, which also doubles the educator tax credit (H.R. 5377). Votes associated with this issue 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 states' and local communities' ability to fund essential public services, including public schools, adequately. This robs students of the opportunity they deserve for a well-rounded curriculum and the support services that can cultivate their success.

The Support American Teachers Act of 2019, included in H.R. 5377, doubles the teacher tax credit from \$250 to \$500, acknowledging the tremendous personal sacrifice educators make when they spend their own money to buy classroom supplies for students in need. About 94 percent of America's public school teachers bought school supplies in 2014-15, according to a U.S. Department of Education survey. Approximately 94 percent spent an average of \$500 on these supplies; nearly 1 out of 10 spent more than \$1,000. Educators do this because they are committed to their students' success. These dedicated professionals deserve not only appreciation, but also tangible recognition of their sacrifices for our nation's children.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association