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March 20, 2020

The Honorable Mike Braun
United States Senate
374 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1401

Dear Senator Braun:

I deeply appreciate your help and that of your staff in getting a large group of students and educators safely back to the United States during difficult circumstances last week.

Robin Robinson, an NEA member, was part of a group of 39 travelers that included 20 students and several educators from Monrovia, Indiana. They were stuck in Krakow, Poland, when the border closed due to the coronavirus crisis, and needed to get to Frankfurt, Germany, to catch their flight back to the United States. Your staff cut through the confusion and red tape to make it happen. They stayed in touch with the group and with us, dealt with embassies, the State Department, and more.

In particular, I would like to thank Chris Carter for serving as case manager and Jason Johnson for keeping in constant touch. Katie Bailey, Allison Feikes, and Molly Harper were an enormous help as well.

These are challenging times. Receiving Robin's news that the group made it home—with a police escort in the final miles—was a great relief that also made us smile. On behalf of all of us here at NEA, I extend a heartfelt thank you.

Sincerely,

Lily Eskelsen García
President
National Education Association