



1201 16th Street, NW | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Lily Eskelsen García
President

Rebecca S. Pringle
Vice President

Princess R. Moss
Secretary-Treasurer

Kim A. Anderson
Executive Director

March 12, 2020

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they educate and support in 14,000 communities, we urge you to vote YES on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201). Votes associated with this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

We are grateful to members of this body for moving quickly to assist those who will be affected by COVID-19. Your actions will no doubt keep many working families from suffering extreme financial hardship. H.R. 6201 takes several steps that NEA members strongly support.

Paid Sick Leave & Emergency Paid Leave Benefits

- The legislation creates a new federal emergency leave benefits program, defining an "emergency leave day" as one on which an individual cannot work because the individual:
 - Has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
 - Is quarantined to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
 - Is caring for someone else who has COVID-19; or
 - Is caring for someone due to a COVID-19 related school, child care facility, or care program closing
- The legislation mandates that individuals working in the 30 days before they were impacted by the novel coronavirus receive up to three months of paid leave due to circumstances related to COVID-19.
- The legislation requires all employers to allow employees to accrue seven days of paid sick leave, and to provide an additional 14 sick days that are immediately available due to COVID-19, or any public health emergency.

Family and Child Nutrition

- The legislation provides \$500 million to provide low-income pregnant women or mothers with young children with access to nutritious foods, should the women lose their jobs due to the COVID-19 emergency.
- The legislation enables the Department of Agriculture to approve state plans for providing emergency SNAP assistance to families with children who would have received free or reduced-price school meals if the COVID-19 emergency had not closed their schools.
- The legislation enables Department of Agriculture to issue nationwide school meal waivers, eliminating paperwork for states and increasing schools' flexibility.
- The legislation allows child and adult care centers to operate as feeding sites and waive all meal pattern requirements if COVID-19 disrupts the food supply.

- The legislation suspends the work and work training requirements for SNAP during the coronavirus crisis, enabling states to provide temporary SNAP benefits to existing SNAP families.

Emergency Unemployment Compensation

- The legislation, in some cases, provides fully funded federal emergency unemployment insurance for a limited period.

Again, we thank you for taking actions to assist working families during this crisis. We strongly urge you to vote YES on H.R. 6201.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Egan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association