



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

April 9, 2020

U.S. Congress
Washington, D.C. 20010

Dear Senator/Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to support additional legislation to address the coronavirus crisis as well as fundamental issues it has brought to the fore—for details, please see the [attached document](#).

Immediate needs include personal protective equipment for all frontline workers and more money to help people get back on their feet—the millions felled by the virus as well as those suddenly unemployed through no fault of their own. Looming problems include the decline in revenues due to the COVID-19 emergency, which could in turn force states to slash spending on health and education—two areas where more money is needed, not less, and any cuts could be catastrophic.

Congress also needs to address long-festering problems aggravated by the coronavirus like the “homework gap,” massive student debt, food insecurity, and lack of access to health care. More than 10 million K-12 students are at risk of falling behind their peers because they don’t have internet access at home—or the devices they need go online. Tens of millions of college graduates are so deep in debt they can’t afford to buy a home or start a family. Children go without good nutrition and health care because their families can’t pay for it.

The coronavirus crisis is a wake-up call, not a passing storm. Like 9/11 and the Great Depression, it is destined to have a lasting impact on our way of life. We urge you not just to support the legislation detailed in the attached document, but to seize it as an opportunity to renew America’s promise of equal opportunity and justice for all.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association