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July 30, 2020

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 consider the recommendations below on amendments to the FY2021 Labor-HHS-Education and other appropriations bills included in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2021 (H.R. 7617). Votes on these issues may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

SUPPORT Pressley amendment #210

- Increases funding for the Election Assistance Commission.
- The additional funds would go to voter education campaigns that combat disinformation and encourage political participation among youth.

OPPOSE Allen amendment #219

- Reduces education funding by 5 percent across the board.
- Schools need more money, not less, to reopen safely and provide meaningful distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SUPPORT Jayapal-Hayes-Moulton- Kennedy-Trahan amendment #253

- Prohibits enforcing the U.S. Department of Education Interim Final Rule, "CARES Act Programs; Equitable Services to Students and Teachers in Non-Public Schools."
- The rule is an unlawful interpretation of the CARES Act that redirects COVID-19 emergency aid intended for public schools to private school students.

SUPPORT Lee amendment #257

- Increases funding for the Full-Service Community Schools Program by \$1 million.
- The increase is offset by reducing U.S. Department of Education management funds by the same amount.

SUPPORT Levin amendment #260

- Prohibits the U.S. Department of Education from using funds for private school vouchers described as "Education Freedom Scholarships."
- Vouchers rob the public schools that educate 9 out of 10 students of scarce resources.

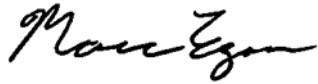
SUPPORT Trahan-Jayapal amendment #297

- Underscores that COVID-19 emergency education aid is to be used as Congress intended—not redirected from public to private schools unless specifically authorized by the applicable law.
- Does not change overall funding levels.

In addition, with regards to the appropriations within the Labor-HHS-Education bill, we appreciate that critical programs serving the students most in need are prioritized, including Title I, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and full-service community schools.

Thank you for considering our views on these amendments and the larger bill.

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