



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*

July 2, 2020

U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

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 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Votes on these issues may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

**SUPPORT the Schatz-Murkowski-Harris-Paul amendment to demilitarize law enforcement (#2252)**

- This amendment would limit the Department of Defense's 1033 program while restoring accountability and transparency.
- Transferring certain offensive equipment to local law enforcement would be prohibited, including tear gas, armor-piercing firearms and ammunition, bayonets, grenade launchers, grenades, tracked combat vehicles, and weaponized drones.
- Defensive equipment like body armor could still be transferred to local law enforcement.

**SUPPORT the Markey-Van Hollen-Bennet-Hassan amendment to close the digital divide and homework gap (#2049)**

- This amendment would enact the Emergency Educational Connections Act (S. 3690/H.R. 6563) to ensure students can access the internet during the coronavirus pandemic.
- It would provide \$4 billion for an emergency fund, administered through the E-Rate program, for schools and libraries to support remote learning.
- Nationwide, as many as 12 million students—1 in 5—are unable to do schoolwork at home due to lack of internet access.

**OPPOSE the Johnson amendment to reauthorize and expand the Washington, DC voucher program**

- A rigorous, [congressionally-mandated study](#) released in May 2018 by the Institute of Education Sciences, part of the U.S. Department of Education, found that DC voucher students enrolled in private schools did worse in reading and math than a control group.
- Other recent studies found that the DC voucher program has had no effect on student satisfaction, parental satisfaction, or parental involvement, and has not increased college enrollment rates.

**OPPOSE any additional amendments that would create new voucher programs, expand existing voucher programs, or advance the failed education privatization agenda**

- Private school voucher programs do not improve academic performance and siphon funding from the public schools that educates 9 out of 10 American children.
- Military “education savings accounts”—another name for vouchers—often lead to reductions in Impact Aid and are traditionally opposed by many military service organizations.

Thank you for considering our views on these amendments.

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