

MARK POCAN  
2ND DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SENIOR WHIP



10 EAST DOTY STREET, SUITE 405  
MADISON, WI 53703  
(608) 258-9800

1421 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2906

POCAN.HOUSE.GOV

UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

August 11, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

Thank you for continuing to fight on behalf of the American people in your negotiations over the next coronavirus relief package. As you continue to press for Democratic priorities with the Senate and White House, I strongly urge you to ensure the following policies to support our public schools are included in any future COVID relief package.

In order to support the safety and long-term success of students, teachers and schools I request that you push for inclusion of:

- At least \$175 billion for the Education Stabilization Fund to help cover the costs schools have due to COVID-19 and in the midst of significant state budget shortfalls. The Fund should be distributed to states based on a formula and should be available for pre-K through post-secondary education.
- At least \$4 billion for the E-rate program to purchase Wi-Fi hotspots, connected devices and other technologies. As schools determine the safest way for their students and teachers to begin the 2020-2021 school year, it is critical that students have access to the technology they need to learn virtually. As you know, at least 16 million K-12 students lack internet access at home, and 1 in 3 Black, Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native families do not have high-speed internet.
- We must fight back against policies that will negatively impact students, teachers and schools by prohibiting the diversion of critical federal funding away from public schools whether through direct payments, vouchers, tax credits or other schemes. Nine out of every 10 students attend public schools — they must have the resources they need to provide a safe and high-quality education.

- Ensure health and safety mandates are in place to protect students, teachers and communities should schools re-open for in-person classes. Without health and safety protocols, schools should not have the ability to waive their liability.

Thank you again for your leadership and longtime support of students, teachers, and public schools. I look forward to continuing to work together to ensure our nation's public schools have the resources they need to meet this unprecedented crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Pocan', with a large circular flourish at the end.

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress