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September 28, 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 strongly urge you to SUPPORT these bills on the suspension calendar. Votes may be included in the NEA Report Card for the 116th Congress.

- **Mental Health Services for Students Act (H.R. 1109)**—Provides \$200 million in competitive grants, through Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Project AWARE, for public schools to partner with local mental health professionals for establishing on-site mental health care services for students.
- **H.R. 2075**—Reauthorizes, through FY2024, the School-based Health Centers program, which provides medical, behavioral, dental, and vision care directly to schools, and adds Federally Qualified Health Centers as eligible providers.
- **H.R. 2468**—Amends the Public Health Service Act to increase the preference given in awarding allergy- and asthma-related grants to states that require certain public schools to have allergy- and asthma-management programs.
- **Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act of 2019 (H.R. 5469)**—The first comprehensive federal legislation to address increasing suicide rates and mental health disorders among Black youth. Provides grants for culturally appropriate mental health services in schools and community settings; increases funding for research into mental health disparities in youth of color; increases support for efforts to diversify the behavioral health workforce; and establishes a commission to examine the effects of Smartphones and social media on adolescent mental health.
- **STANDUP Act of 2020 (H.R. 7293)**—Provides resources and technical assistance to states, Tribes, and schools on student suicide prevention, awareness, and training efforts and requires SAMHSA Project AWARE grantees to implement school policies for student suicide prevention and awareness.

These worthwhile initiatives will greatly assist educators in meeting students' needs for guidance and support.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association