



Great Public Schools
for Every Student

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September 30, 2020

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 3 million members of the National Education Association—who have been steadfast in their dedication to supporting students and families during this pandemic—we urge you to vote YES on the updated Heroes Act. Votes on this issue may be included in the NEA’s Report Card for the 116th Congress.

The updated Heroes Act contains several provisions that will help students and educators, including:

- \$182 billion for K-12 public schools;
- \$39 billion for postsecondary education;
- \$12 billion in emergency funding to address the Homework Gap via the E-rate program; and
- \$5 billion for improving school ventilation systems and providing other protections for students and staff.

To support individuals and families, the legislation:

- Provides additional economic impact payments of \$1,200 per taxpayer and \$500 per dependent;
- Restores weekly \$600 federal unemployment payments through the end of January 2021;
- Increases both the minimum and maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefit and provides additional funding for nutrition programs;
- Provides \$57 billion for child care for families; and
- Extends federal student loan payment and interest suspension through September 2021 and expands these benefits to borrowers with commercially held FFEL loans and institutionally held Perkins loans.

The updated Heroes Act includes \$436 billion in this fiscal year in assistance to state, local, territorial, and tribal governments—funding that will help pay frontline public service workers—and provides \$75 billion for coronavirus testing, tracing, and treatment.

NEA also supports the updated Heroes Act because it does not contain any provisions that would fund voucher schemes by taking resources away from students in public schools. However, we do NOT support provisions in the Heroes Act regarding the GROW Act, because those provisions would fundamentally change the multiemployer pension system by authorizing a “composite plan.” A composite plan would not offer the same safeguards for participants and beneficiaries as a traditional defined benefit plan.

We urge you to prioritize emergency relief for students and families by extending a lifeline to those who have already endured much hardship. Please vote YES on the updated Heroes Act.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association