



1201 16th Street, NW | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Rebecca S. Pringle
President

Princess R. Moss
Vice President

Noel Candelaria
Secretary-Treasurer

Kim A. Anderson
Executive Director

October 14, 2020

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

The National Education Association and our 52 affiliates represent 3 million educators serving 50 million students all across America. On their behalf, we strongly urge you to heed the will of the American people: Pass a robust COVID-19 stimulus and relief bill immediately and wait until after Inauguration Day to confirm the next Supreme Court justice.

The Senate majority is rushing to confirm President Trump's nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, before Election Day when that is NOT what the American people want. At least [a dozen polls](#) have found that most Americans want the winners of the 2020 elections—already underway—to choose the successor to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Reopening schools safely and alleviating suffering from COVID-19 should be the top priorities of Congress—for good reason. COVID-19 is taking an ever-increasing toll on our nation's physical and economic health. To date, more than 7.5 million Americans have contracted COVID-19 and over 210,000 have died from it. Millions of Americans have lost their jobs, including 835,000 educators. The unemployment rate is 7.9 percent, and every day brings reports of new layoffs.

The choice of the next Supreme Court justice merits careful consideration, especially since it will have profound implications for decades to come. The first challenge is almost upon us.

On November 10, the Supreme Court will hear a case that could eliminate the entire Affordable Care Act, causing 21 million Americans to lose health coverage and premiums to skyrocket for the 133 million Americans with pre-existing conditions that now include COVID-19. President Trump has promised that Judge Barrett will strike down the law, and Barrett herself has said she would have struck it down before now.

Throughout her career, Judge Barrett has sided with the powerful and well-connected over ordinary Americans. She has expressed misgivings about the Supreme Court's decision to preserve the Affordable Care Act and questioned the legal basis for other important rights and protections. Public education, collective bargaining, voting rights, LGBTQ rights, First Amendment protections, racial and social justice, and much more would be at risk if Judge Barrett is confirmed—especially in light of her views on *stare decisis* (to stand by that which is decided). In plain English, she believes standing by precedent is not all that important.

The majority of the American people say, by big margins, that the winners of the ongoing elections should choose the successor to Justice Ginsburg. By even bigger margins, the majority of the American people say Congress should focus on getting the pandemic under control and providing relief for America's suffering students, families, and communities.

We agree and urge the Senate to heed the people's voice.

Sincerely,

Becky Pringle
President, National Education Association

Corey Rosenlee
President, Hawaii State Teachers Association

Sherry Tucker
President, Alabama Education Association

Layne McInelly
President, Idaho Education Association

Tom Klaameyer
President, NEA-Alaska

Kathi Griffin
President, Illinois Education Association

Joe Thomas
President, Arizona Education Association

Keith Gambill
President, Indiana State Teachers Association

Carol Fleming
President, Arkansas Education Association

Mike Beranek
President, Iowa State Education Association

E. Toby Boyd
President, California Teachers Association

Mark Farr
President, Kansas National Education Association

Amie Baca-Oehlert
President, Colorado Education Association

Eddie Campbell
President, Kentucky Education Association

Jeff Leake
President, Connecticut Education Association

Tia Mills
President, Louisiana Association of Educators

Stephanie Ingram
President, Delaware State Education Association

Grace Leavitt
President, Maine Education Association

Richard Tarr
Executive Director, Federal Education Association

Cheryl Bost
President, Maryland State Education Association

Andrew Spar
President, Florida Education Association

Merrie Najimy
President, Massachusetts Teachers Association

Lisa Morgan
President, Georgia Association of Educators

Paula Herbart
President, Michigan Education Association

Denise Specht
President, Education Minnesota

Erica Jones
President, Mississippi Association of Educators

Phil Murray
President, Missouri NEA

Amanda Curtis
President, Montana Federation of Public
Employees

Jenni Benson
President, Nebraska State Education
Association

Brian Rippet
President, Nevada State Education Association

Megan Tuttle
President, NEA New Hampshire

Marie Blistan
President, New Jersey Education Association

Mary Parr-Sanchez
President, NEA-New Mexico

Andy Pallotta
President, New York State United Teachers

Tamika Walker Kelly
President, North Carolina Association of
Educators

Nick Archuleta
President, North Dakota United

Scott DiMauro
President, Ohio Education Association

Alicia Priest
President, Oklahoma Education Association

John Larson
President, Oregon Education Association

Rich Askey
President, Pennsylvania State Education
Association

Lawrence Purtil
President, NEA Rhode Island

Sherry East
President, South Carolina Education Association

Loren Paul
President, South Dakota Education Association

Beth Brown
President, Tennessee Education Association

Ovidia Molina
President, Texas State Teachers Association

Heidi Matthews
President, Utah Education Association

Jason Lewis
President, Utah School Employees Association

Don Tinney
President, Vermont-NEA

James Fedderman
President, Virginia Education Association

Larry Delaney
President, Washington Education Association

Dale Lee
President, West Virginia Education Association

Ronald "Duff" Martin
President, Wisconsin Education Association
Council

Grady Hutcherson
President, Wyoming Education Association