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February 24, 2021

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 urge you to VOTE YES on the American Rescue Plan when it comes to the floor later this week. We are especially pleased by the provisions specified below, and urge you to retain them in the final bill. Votes on this issue will be included in NEA's Report Card for the 117th Congress.

#### **EDUCATION**

- \$170 billion in dedicated education funding to advance the process of continuing to return safely to in-person instruction—for example, modifying public K-12 school buildings, purchasing sanitation supplies, training staff to minimize the spread of COVID-19, furnishing personal protective equipment (PPE), taking steps to improve indoor air quality, intensifying support and instruction for students traumatized by the pandemic and the loss of opportunities to learn, as well as institutional and student support at the higher education level to address the health, safety, and financial challenges created by COVID-19. To see what this provision of the bill means for your state, please see [this breakdown](#).
- \$350 billion in state and local aid to help avoid further layoffs of educators and other essential public servants
- \$7 billion in emergency funding for the Federal Communications Commission's E-Rate program to address the "homework gap" and lost opportunities to learn by equipping students and educators with internet access and devices for remote teaching and learning
- \$39 billion for early education programs, including the Child Care and Development Block Grant and the child care stabilization fund for providers

#### **HEALTH CARE**

- Increased funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to test, track, and vaccinate people
- Increased Affordable Care Act premium subsidies so people don't have to pay more than 8.5 percent of their income for coverage
- Increased support for Medicaid, community health centers, and tribal health programs

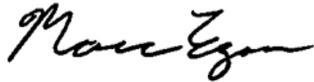
- Increased support for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) programs and training for mental and behavioral health professionals, paraprofessionals, and public safety officers
- Helping people who lose their jobs keep their health insurance by paying 85 percent of COBRA premiums through September

#### **WORKERS & FAMILIES**

- \$1,400 payments to eligible individuals earning under \$75,000 a year
- Increasing supplemental unemployment benefits from \$300 to \$400 per week, and extending them through August
- Making the Child Tax Credit fully refundable and increasing the maximum from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per child, with an additional \$600 for each child under age 6
- Strengthening the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program and extending the 15 percent increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits through September to ensure children do not go hungry
- Extending tax credits that encourage employers to keep employees and provide paid sick leave
- Raising the federal minimum wage from \$7.75 to \$15 per hour by 2025
- Including the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act to stabilize the pensions of more than 1 million beneficiaries of struggling multiemployer plans

Please VOTE YES on this vitally important legislation.

Sincerely,



Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association