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March 18, 2021

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 3 million members of the National Education Association, who teach and support students in communities across America, we urge you to vote YES on H.R. 1868 in order to prevent across-the-board spending cuts and any other budgetary effects that could be triggered by PAYGO related to passage of recent legislation. Votes on this issue may be included in the NEA Report Card on the 117th Congress.

As you know, because of reconciliation rules, PAYGO exemptions could not be included during passage of the American Rescue Plan. The requirements of PAYGO, however, have the potential to inflict much harm if enacted while our nation remains in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, PAYGO would result in a 4-percent cut to Medicare payments **as our public health emergency continues**—risking the health care of millions of senior citizens, including retired educators, and weakening the hospitals, clinics, and providers they depend on. PAYGO-imposed cuts would also prompt an increase in loan origination fees for student loans, and would eliminate funding for programs such as the Social Services Block Grant and the Crime Victims Fund.

H.R. 1868 directs OMB to exclude the American Rescue Plan from PAYGO requirements, just as Congress acted with passage of previous COVID-19 bills and with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. We ask you to vote YES on H.R. 1868 in order to protect from sequestration the services many Americans—now more than ever—depend on.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association