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March 9, 2021

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

The 3.1 million members of the National Education Association, who educate and support students in 14,000 communities across America, are proud to support President Biden's nominee for U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Rep. Marcia Fudge and we urge you to vote YES on her nomination. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 117th Congress.

Representative Fudge has a long history of advocating for working families and working across party lines to seek solutions. Given this time of tremendous hardship for America's lowest-income renters, homeowners on the verge of losing their homes, and Americans experiencing homelessness, Representative Fudge's skills and commitment to advancing civil rights for all make her an ideal candidate for this position.

Before being elected to Congress, Representative Fudge was mayor of Warrensville Heights, OH, where she led the city in providing new residential construction. As a member of Congress, she has been an advocate for the HOME Investment Partnerships program, which provides grants to states and localities to fund building, buying, and rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership or providing direct rental assistance to low-income people. This is the largest block grant program designed exclusively to create affordable housing, and Representative Fudge's support for it as well as her staunch support for nutrition assistance programs are indicative of her commitment to struggling Americans.

In her recent confirmation hearing, Representative Fudge reiterated her strong commitment to enforcing the Fair Housing Act, strengthening fair housing protections, promoting sustainable homeownership, increasing the availability of affordable rental homes, reducing the impact of lead and other environmental hazards in housing, addressing the particular housing needs of Native American populations, preventing foreclosures and evictions, and reducing homelessness. As a member of Opportunity Starts at Home, a campaign to meet the rental housing needs of low-income people, NEA looks forward to working with Representative Fudge on these issues.

Representative Fudge understands that stable, secure housing is a crucial foundation for student learning. We urge you to confirm her as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association