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U.S. Congress  
Washington, DC

Dear Senator/Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we applaud the administration's focus on jobs, education, families, and continuing to build up the economy. We are especially pleased by the provisions of the American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan specified below, and urge you to enact or modify them as indicated.

#### **SCHOOL MODERNIZATION**

- NEA supports the Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act (S. 96/H.R. 604), which would create a \$100 billion grant program and \$30 billion tax-credit bond program targeting high-poverty schools whose facilities pose health and safety risks to students and staff.
- The American Jobs Plan includes \$100 billion to modernize K-12 public school facilities, \$12 billion to upgrade the community college infrastructure, and \$25 billion to improve child care facilities—a good start.

#### **EDUCATION**

- Provide two years of free community college for all Americans, including Dreamers and part-time students
- Provide two years of subsidized tuition for students whose families earn less than \$125,000 a year at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)
- Increase annual Pell Grant maximum by \$1,400 and expand access to Dreamers
- Increase support for Grow Your Own and paid teacher residency programs, teacher leadership and preparation programs, and professional learning opportunities for teachers
- Increase TEACH grant awards from \$4,000 to \$8,000

#### **CHILD NUTRITION**

- NEA supports giving all students access to free, healthy school meals to:
  - Support student learning
  - Improve student health
  - End the shame and stigma associated with the current system
  - Save money and reduce paperwork for schools
- The American Families Plan expands community eligibility, summer meals programs, and takes steps to encourage healthy eating—a good start.

## WORKERS & FAMILIES

- NEA supports modifying the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to create a new hours of service threshold specifically for education support professionals (ESPs), similar to the provision enacted for airline crews.
- We also support provisions of the American Families Plan that:
  - Establish a national family and medical leave program that guarantees up to 12 weeks of paid leave and replaces up to \$4,000 of lost wages per month
  - Upgrade child care facilities, increase the supply of child care in areas that need it most, and make child care more affordable (the cost of child care for children under age 5 would be capped at 7 percent of income for low- and middle-income families)
  - Ensure a minimum wage of \$15 per hour and enhanced training for childcare workers
  - Expand the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act to cover survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking
  - Increase, strengthen, and expand eligibility for unemployment benefits
- We also support meaningful immigration reform that provides a pathway to citizenship for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, and essential workers for whom America is their home.

## TAXATION

- Extend temporary changes in the child tax credit made by the American Rescue Plan that cut child poverty in half (fully refundable, \$3,600 per year for children under age 6 and \$3,000 per year for children 6-17)
- Ensure that corporations and the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share:
  - Restore the 39.6 percent top marginal income tax rate—the level in effect before the 2017 GOP tax bill lowered it to 37 percent
  - Raise the corporate tax rate to 28 percent—still well below the 35 percent in effect before the 2017 GOP tax bill lowered it to 21 percent
  - Set a 21 percent minimum tax rate for corporate offshore profits, applied on a country-by-country basis
  - Institute a 15 percent minimum tax on corporate profits reported to investors
  - End special tax breaks for fossil fuel production
  - Make it tougher for U.S. corporations to dodge U.S. taxes by adopting a phony foreign address
  - Strengthen IRS enforcement

We thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments and stand ready to work with you to enact this vitally important legislation.

Sincerely,



Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association