



National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

444 N. Capitol St., NW, Ste. 419 | Washington, DC 20001 | (p) 202.624.5455 | www.NAFISDC.org

May 2, 2017

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS), we write to express our support for the \$23 million increase for Impact Aid in the Fiscal Year 2017 Omnibus Appropriations Act. We have concerns about the overall lack of investment in education programs as a result of the Budget Control Act, and urge you and your colleagues to approve a permanent solution to repeal the caps.

NAFIS represents the 1,200-plus Impact Aid-recipient school districts nationwide, serving more than 10 million Federal and non-Federal students. Impact Aid is a partnership between communities and the Federal government where there is non-taxable property, such as military installations, Indian lands, low-rent housing, and national parks and laboratories. Congress recognized in 1950 that the Federal government had an obligation to help meet the local responsibility of financing public education in areas impacted by a Federal presence. That same recognition holds true today.

We are grateful to the leadership of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor-Health and Human Services-Education for prioritizing Impact Aid. We are thrilled that the Basic Support program received a \$21 million increase in the Omnibus. NAFIS estimates that program growth over FY 2017 and 2018 is approximately \$35 million per year, so this funding will help maintain the LOT payout at current levels.

NAFIS appreciates the continued bipartisan, bicameral support for Federal Properties despite repeated requests by the Administration to eliminate funding. The \$2 million increase will help offset some of the costs associated with newly eligible districts as the Federal Government continues to acquire property, as well as those coming into the program with the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Federally impacted school districts have faced funding cuts and significant budgetary uncertainty over the past several years. The modest investments that have been made in the Impact Aid program have been welcome relief to federally impacted communities. However, we remain concerned about the impact of continued stagnation and the potential for reductions under the Budget Control Act caps and the Trump Administration's skinny budget. We urge you to permanently lift the caps to ensure that discretionary programs, including Impact Aid, receive adequate investments.

Sincerely,

Hilary Goldmann
Executive Director

Jocelyn Bissonnette
Director of Government Affairs

THE NAFIS FAMILY

MISA

Military Impacted
Schools Association

NIISA

National Indian Impacted
Schools Association

FLISA

Federal Lands Impacted
Schools Association

MTLLS

Mid-to-Low-LOT
Schools