May 1, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-
Education and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-
Education and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

On behalf of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) we thank the members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies for prioritizing Impact Aid in the FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. NAFIS thanks the subcommittee members for providing a $50 million increase for Basic Support (Section 7003) and a $2 million increase for Federal Property (Section 7002) for FY 2020.

To support these needed increases, it is critical that Congress raise the budget caps to reverse the erosion of vital funding across education and discretionary programs. If a budget deal raises the spending caps significantly, NAFIS will urge the Appropriations Committee to honor the proposed increases and consider further increasing the appropriations for Impact Aid Basic Support and Federal Property. A $120 million increase is required to fully fund the proration formula for Basic Support and achieve a 100% LOT payout.

The increases already passed by the subcommittee and any further increases reaffirm Congress’ longstanding and bipartisan support of this important program, which reimburses public school districts to make up for the loss of tax revenue due to a federal activity. These funding increases would be a good deal for students, school districts and taxpayers, and they will allow federally impacted school districts to continue their locally-controlled investment of Impact Aid dollars to provide a quality education for all students. Impact Aid funds are used for student centered learning, supports for military connected students, Native American language and cultural education, teachers and school counselors, STEM curriculum, technology, afterschool programs, buses and so much more.

NAFIS members particularly appreciate your leadership of the House Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee and your support of the Impact Aid program.

Sincerely,

Hilary Goldmann
Executive Director

Leslie Finnman
Director of Policy & Advocacy