



National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

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August 3, 2020

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
U.S. Senate
Chairman, Health, Education, Labor Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert "Bobby" Scott
U.S. House of Representatives
Chairman, Education & Labor Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
U.S. Senate
Ranking Member, Health, Education, Labor Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
U.S. House of Representatives
Ranking Member, Education & Labor Com.
Washington, DC ZIP 20515

Dear Chairmen Alexander and Scott, and Ranking Members Murray and Foxx:

The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) strongly supports S. 4063, the "Impact Aid Coronavirus Relief Act," introduced by Senators Thune and Smith and included in the "Safely Back to School and Back to Work Act." NAFIS urges you and your colleagues to include this provision in the next coronavirus relief package.

The Impact Aid Coronavirus Relief Act would permit federally impacted school districts to use FY 2021 (2019-2020 school year) student counts and acreage valuation data for the FY 2022 Impact Aid application. School districts would also have the option of conducting new student counts and calculating new acreage valuations for the FY 22 application. Given the challenge around holding an accurate and safe student count during the COVID-19 pandemic, this issue is of grave concern for federally impacted school districts.

School districts that receive Section 7003 Basic Support funding must count their students annually to apply for Impact Aid payments. School districts plan for the implementation of their student count very early in the school year. Some school districts count their students as early as August, with the bulk of school districts counting their students in September and October to meet the FY 22 Impact Aid application deadline of January 31. Most school districts achieve this task by sending paper Parent Pupil Survey forms home for parents to complete and then return with their student. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this approach is neither feasible nor practical in most circumstances for this school year.

Because of the extraordinary circumstances posed by COVID-19, NAFIS believes it is a reasonable and a sound solution to permit school districts to use their FY 21 student count and acreage valuation for their FY 22 application.

Thank you for considering including S. 4063, the "Impact Aid Coronavirus Relief Act," in the next coronavirus relief bill.

Sincerely,

Hilary Goldmann
Executive Director

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FLISA

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MTLLS

Mid-to-Low-LOT
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