



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NAFIS Supports the Economic Justice Act**

**Washington, DC – November 10, 2020** – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools commends Senator Schumer and members of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee for the introduction of the Economic Justice Act. The inclusion of school infrastructure and, in particular, infrastructure funding for federally impacted school districts shows the Senators' priority for making school buildings safe and commitment to the education of our nation's students.

Federally impacted school districts face the unique challenge of limited local tax revenue (and in turn, limited or non-existent bonding capacity) due to the presence of nontaxable Federal property, such as Indian trust and treaty lands and military installations. Many of these school districts are educating students in facilities with health and safety code violations, or that are more than 100 years old.

"School districts that receive funding under the Impact Aid construction program educate some of our nation's most vulnerable children," says Hilary Goldmann, executive director of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools. "These students need access to safe, modern school buildings. EJA funding will assist federally impacted school districts in both addressing health and safety concerns and making needed updates to support remote, hybrid and in-person teaching and learning, giving students the opportunity to reach their full potential in these uncertain times."

In a 2017 survey of 218 federally impacted districts, NAFIS identified \$13 billion in unmet construction need, including \$4.2 billion in pressing need. Specific projects would address overcrowding, leaky roofs, cracked foundations, expired boilers, technology upgrades and more. The funding provided under the EJA would be a critical step for these school districts and would provide a pathway to safer and more supportive school buildings for our students.

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The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents the 1,100-plus federally impacted public school districts that together educate more than 10 million students across the nation. Federally impacted school districts are those located on or near nontaxable Federal property—including military installations; Indian Trust, Treaty and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; Federal low-income housing facilities; and national parks, national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. These school districts, which are demographically and geographically diverse, receive Impact Aid, a Federal education program that reimburses school districts for the lost local revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of Federal property. To learn more, visit [www.nafisdc.org](http://www.nafisdc.org).