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NAFIS Supports the *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act*

Legislation would increase resources and opportunities for students across the country

Washington, DC – September 15, 2021 – Today, Representatives Mike Levin (D-CA-49) and Don Young (R-AK-AL) introduced H.R. 5255, the *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act*. This important bill authorizes Congress to fully fund the Impact Aid Basic Support formula, fund a proportional increase to the Federal Property program and increase funding for federally impacted students with disabilities throughout the country. The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) strongly supports this legislation.

Impact Aid is a Federal education program that partially reimburses school districts for the lost revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of nontaxable Federal property, such as military installations, Indian Trust, Treaty and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands, Federal low-rent housing, national parks, and other Federal buildings and property. Most school districts are funded largely through local taxes and fees, so districts containing tax-exempt Federal property are at a disadvantage in funding their schools.

Impact Aid recognizes the Federal government's responsibility to help finance public education in areas where it holds land. However, it has been underfunded for over 50 years. The *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act* helps ensure the schools and communities affected by the Federal presence can provide high-quality educational opportunities.

"Impact Aid plays an important role in school districts' efforts to provide all students with the opportunities they need to meet their full potential," says NAFIS Executive Director Hilary Goldmann. "But some school districts and the students they serve – which includes large numbers of military-connected and Native American students – have been shortchanged hundreds of thousands of dollars because the program is not fully funded. This important legislation would get closer to fulfilling the Federal obligation to students in federally impacted school districts."

Additional investments in Impact Aid are critical to help school districts close achievement gaps, update technology, expand access to early childhood and afterschool programs, integrate culturally relevant curriculum, replace failing infrastructure, offer competitive salaries to recruit and retain school leaders and more.

"We thank Representatives Levin and Young for their leadership on this important issue," continued Goldmann. "Now, we ask Congress to act to ensure federally impacted school districts have the resources they need to offer high-quality educational opportunities."

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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 <https://www.nafisd.org/>.