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## **NAFIS Mourns Passing of Representative Don Young**

**Washington, DC – March 21, 2022** – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) was saddened by the passing of Representative Don Young (R-AK) on March 18, 2022, at age 88. First elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1973, Young was its longest-serving member.

“Don Young was a strong advocate for the state of Alaska and for Alaska Natives throughout his five decades in Congress,” said NAFIS Interim Executive Director John Forkenbrock. “He was always willing to fight for what was right for his constituents and kept their best interests at heart, working across the aisle to meet their unique needs. We mourn his loss.”

When it came to Impact Aid, Young was first in line to show his support. A former educator, he recognized the critical importance of the program in meeting the needs of Alaska’s students. Most recently, Young was an original co-sponsor of the Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress and the Impact Aid Infrastructure Act in both the 116<sup>th</sup> and 117<sup>th</sup> Congresses.

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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.nafisdc.org/>.