April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We urge you to recognize the importance of the Federal Impact Aid Program as you set the Appropriation Subcommittee’s funding priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. We request strong and continued funding for all line items of the Impact Aid Program to ensure all federally connected school districts can provide quality education.

Congress created Impact Aid in 1950 in recognition of the federal government’s responsibility to help finance public education in areas impacted by a federal presence. Impact Aid provides a payment in lieu of taxes to local school districts for lost revenue that is a result of tax-exempt federal property and actions that have increased expenditures due to the enrollment of federally connected children. The program provides direct, flexible funding to over 1,200 school districts nationwide. Impact Aid funds a range of programs, including facilities renovation, teacher retention, technology purchases, and maintenance of transportation fleets. For many districts, this funding is essential to school operations.

Congress should prioritize Basic Support to ensure the current payout level to school districts is at least maintained. For districts enrolling military children, the ability to address both the academic and emotional needs of these students must be maintained. Education is a quality-of-life issue for military families and improving schools serving military students will help the military’s ongoing recruitment and retention initiatives.

The needs of districts enrolling children who reside on Indian lands—of whom over 93 percent are Native American—must be supported as well. Often, these school districts are in rural areas with a limited tax base and where administrators double as bus drivers, teachers, and coaches. Impact Aid dollars provide a foundational education program for all students; many schools would close their doors without this federal support.

Federal Properties school districts depend on Impact Aid due to a limited local tax base caused by the presence of certain federal land in their districts, including national parks and grasslands, national laboratories, Army Corps of Engineers projects, and military academies. Congress should prioritize this funding stream to reflect the addition of eligible Federal Property school districts.
We urge you to support strong and continued funding for all line items of the Impact Aid Program. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

Mike Levin  
Member of Congress

Roger Williams  
Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Mike Bost  
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

António Delgado  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress
Andy Kim  
Member of Congress

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

Frank D. Lucas  
Member of Congress

Elaine G. Luria  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress
Blake D. Moore
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

Marie Newman
Member of Congress

Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress