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## **NAFIS Endorses Bipartisan Legislation to Fully Fund Impact Aid Program**

*Vital federal investment would benefit nearly eight million students across the nation*

**Washington, D.C. – September 10, 2025** – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) announces its strong support for H.R. 5195, the *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act*, H.R.5195, a bipartisan bill introduced by Representatives Mike Levin (CA-49) and David Valadao (CA-22). This landmark legislation aims to fully fund the federal Impact Aid program for the first time since 1969, ensuring that public school districts located on and near federally owned land receive the resources they need to provide high-quality education.

Impact Aid partially reimburses school districts for lost revenue and increased costs associated with the presence of nontaxable federal property—such as military installations, Indian trust and restricted lands, federal low-rent housing, national parks, and other federal land and facilities. Most school districts rely heavily on local taxes to fund education, leaving federally impacted districts at a disadvantage. Impact Aid recognizes the federal government's obligation to support education in these areas; however, it has been underfunded for decades.

The *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act* outlines a five-year plan to close this funding gap. It increases funding across four key sections of the program—Basic Support, Federal Property, Children with Disabilities, and Construction. These investments will give districts the flexibility to improve facilities, expand academic and extracurricular offerings, and strengthen support for educators and students based on local needs.

"Federal Impact Aid is a critical revenue source that supports our schools in lieu of local taxes," said Jim Sarruda, Executive Director of the Learning Opportunity Impacted Schools Association (LO~ISA). "LO~ISA districts—those with a federally connected student population between 5% and 50%—make up 73% of all federally impacted districts, yet currently receive only 19% of the funding due to them. Fully funding Impact Aid means fairness, stability, and the ability to meet the needs of every child."

"This legislation provides the clearest path forward in addressing the long-standing challenges faced by students, communities, and taxpayers impacted by a federal presence within their school boundaries," said Tom Schneider, Executive Director of the Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association (FLISA). "For decades, these problems have persisted, and it's time to fix them. This bill offers an effective solution, and the time to act is now."

"One of the basic principles of America's democracy is that all children have the right to a free and appropriate public education," said Brent Gish, Executive Director of the National Indian Impacted Schools Association. "For federally impacted school districts, Impact Aid replaces local property taxes that provide basic education services to children living on Indian treaty or trust lands, military installations, and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands. The *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act* would provide equity in funding for approximately 1,100 districts serving nearly eight million students. The passage of this Act would be a huge step for Congress in fulfilling its funding responsibility to federally impacted schools."

“The Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) strongly supports the full funding of the Impact Aid Program,” said Kyle Fairbairn, Executive Director of the Military Impacted Schools Association. “This program was once fully funded and needs to be again. While the federal government has found ways to fund private school vouchers, it has yet to fully support a program that directly affects the children of our military families. This funding would provide needed supports to those children who move with their families every three to four years to support the military mission and keep America strong. We urge full funding of the Impact Aid Program.”

“Impact Aid plays a vital role in helping federally impacted school districts meet the diverse needs of their students,” said Cherise Imai, Executive Director of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS). “For too long, these districts have been underfunded, limiting their ability to provide equitable opportunities. The Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act is a critical step toward fulfilling the federal government’s responsibility and ensuring that all students—regardless of where they live—have access to high-quality education, safe facilities, and the supports they need to thrive.”

“We thank Representatives Levin and Valadao for their leadership on this critical issue,” continued Imai. “Now, we urge Congress to act and ensure federally impacted school districts have the resources necessary to provide high-quality educational opportunities.”

In addition to NAFIS, FLISA, LO~ISA, MISA, and NIISA, the Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act is endorsed by a broad coalition of organizations supporting federally impacted schools, including Blue Star Families, Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), National Rural Education Association (NREA), National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASPP), Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO), National Education Association (NEA), Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA), and AASA, the School Superintendents Association.

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The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents approximately 1,100 federally impacted public school districts that together educate nearly eight million students across the nation. Federally impacted school districts are those located on or near nontaxable Federal property—including military installations; Indian trust and restricted lands; Federal low-income housing facilities; and national parks, national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. These school districts 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).