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November 12, 2024

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20015

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to address the issues below in whatever legislative vehicle—or vehicles—moves during the post-election session. Votes on these issues may be included in NEA's report card for the 118th Congress.

GPO/WEP REPEAL

The Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) rob more than 2.8 million dedicated public servants, including many educators, of Social Security benefits they have earned. To fully repeal GPO/WEP, we urge you to VOTE YES on the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) when it comes to the floor.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Due to years of budget caps, ongoing education programs receive \$13.6 billion less in annual appropriations than they received a decade ago (after adjusting for inflation). We urge you to adhere to funding levels in previously passed legislation and invest in targeted increases for the students most in need. Pass the FY2025 appropriation before the end of this legislative session.

RURAL SCHOOLS

The Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program helps support schools, roads, and other municipal services in more than 700 counties in 41 states and Puerto Rico. SRS made its last authorized payment in April 2024. Pass the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2023 (H.R. 5030) before the end of this legislative session.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SCHOOLS

The Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (H.R. 8070) includes a voucher-like program administered by the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) for schools in Bahrain. We urge you to eliminate this program because it would rob schools of essential resources and students of First Amendment, due process, and other fundamental rights.

INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS

Hundreds of thousands of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children were forced to enroll and assimilate in government- and church-run boarding schools. Many died,

went missing, or were murdered; survivors were often the victims of abuse. Pass the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act (H.R. 7227) before the end of this legislative session.

Thank you for considering our priorities for the remainder of the 118th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Egan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association