

May 27, 2010

Member
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: *Fiscal Year 2010 Supplemental Appropriations*

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the thousands of board members and administrators who represent the 49 million students in our nation's school districts, we write to urge your strong support and vote in favor of a Fiscal Year 2010 Supplemental Appropriations bill that includes an extension of fiscal stabilization funding targeted to school districts. The inclusion of the proposed \$23 billion Education Jobs Fund will help our school systems prevent massive budget cuts and teacher layoffs that would cripple student achievement and school performance in many communities.

Resources for education are in a serious decline because of current conditions that are eroding state and local economies, particularly record unemployment and weakening commerce that has affected property tax, income tax and sales tax revenues which comprise the majority of funding for elementary and secondary education. State governments have struggled to close a cumulative \$174.1 billion budget gap in their FY2010 budgets, according to a recent report by the National Conference of State Legislatures that also cites a substantial budget shortfall for FY2011. Furthermore, the funding provided through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has already been utilized or is obligated by districts and states.

Deferring action to prevent this crisis would simply compound the disaster, requiring more funding to remedy future problems including higher unemployment and greater demand on social services; the ability to attract and retain industry/other major employers without high-quality school systems; further loss of tax revenues; and, limited contracting opportunities with businesses as well as consumer purchasing power. A survey by the American Association of School Administrators found that 275,000 teachers and other education employees face layoffs in the upcoming school year – a catastrophe that must be addressed now to ensure the future of our students and nation as the leader in global competitiveness.

The impact of such draconian budget cuts and layoffs in our schools means cuts to core instruction and larger class sizes that do not facilitate differentiated instruction and other specialized curricula that many students need. The layoffs would also mean the loss of specialists for intervention programs, such as reading and math coaches, as well as discontinued extracurricular programs that help provide a well-rounded education program for our students.

Our organizations greatly appreciate your support for our schools. We urge your vote in favor of an FY2010 Supplemental Appropriations bill that includes the \$23 billion Education Jobs Fund for elementary and secondary education that will enable your states and school systems in your congressional districts to thrive without losing highly effective teachers and personnel whose work is critical to the success of our students.

We look forward to working with you as the FY 2010 Supplemental Appropriations process moves forward.

Sincerely,

American Association of School Administrators
Council of Great City Schools
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National School Boards Association