

The Hon. Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2020

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The undersigned 56 education and related national associations write to express our appreciation for the work of the bipartisan group of Senators in support of providing funding to address the homework gap in a COVID-19 emergency package. We thank the group for supporting the dissemination of homework gap funds through the existing E-rate program, a longstanding, successful program that schools know and trust and that can quickly, efficiently, and equitably deliver funding to K-12 schools and public libraries.

However, we urge this group and Congress as a whole to increase funding for the homework gap to reach the more than 16 million students lacking Internet connectivity or devices at home. A recent study has shown that upwards of \$12 billion is needed to address the homework gap for the next twelve months and, in October, the U.S. House passed the HEROES Act 2.0 (H.R. 925), that appropriated \$12 billion for the homework gap. The \$3 billion figure on which the bipartisan group of Senators has agreed may meet only 25% of the homework gap identified and leave too many K-12 school students and teachers without adequate remote access to their classes.

We urge Congress to act quickly. This is an urgent matter as students lacking remote access to school fall further behind. Additionally, many school districts are using online learning to deliver virtual access to after-school, enrichment and learning loss programs. **Without sufficient and specific targeted funds to help students who do not have Internet access at home** - whether it is Internet service, devices or both – **we are denying students the fundamental right to an education.**

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association
Advance CTE
Alliance for Excellent Education
American Federation of School Administrators
American Federation of Teachers

American Library Association
American Psychological Association
American School Counselor Association
ASCD
Association for Career and Technical Education
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of School Business Officials International
Children's Health Fund
Code.org
Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL)
Committee for Children
Common Sense
CoSN, the Consortium for School Networking
Council for Exceptional Children
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of Chief State School Officers
Family Centered Treatment Association
Girl Scouts of the USA
Girls Inc.
IDEA Public Schools
International Society for Technology in Education
Joint National Committee for Languages
KIPP
Learning Forward
Magnet Schools of America
MENTOR
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
National Association of Independent Schools
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Boards of Education
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Catholic Educational Association
National Center for Families Learning
National Council for Languages and International Studies
National Council for the Social Studies
National Council of Teachers of English
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Education Association
National PTA
National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition
National Rural Education Association
National School Boards Association
Parents as Teachers
Project Tomorrow

Public Advocacy for Kids
State Educational Technology Directors Association
Teach For America
The Education Trust

cc: The Hon. Roger Wicker, Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science &
Transportation
The Hon. Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science &
Transportation
The Hon. Frank Pallone, Chairman, House Committee on Energy & Commerce
The Hon. Greg Walden, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. Senate
U.S. House of Representatives