July 29, 2020

Subject: Action Needed - Support COVID Relief

Dear Unit Presidents and Executive Directors,

On Monday, the members of the United States Senate released its proposal for the next COVID-19 response package, the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection and Schools (HEALS) Act. While we commend the Senate majority for taking action to introduce an additional emergency supplemental bill, in response to the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on state and local economies, and for including funding dedicated to K-12 education, the bill misses the mark and falls far short of the needs facing our nation’s schools.

Take action now to tell your Members of Congress that we need additional relief from the federal government.

Support Additional Relief for Schools in a COVID-19 Relief Bill

We are asking Congress to act in the following ways:

- Pass the Supporting Children with Disabilities During COVID–19 Act (Hassan, Murphy, & Van Hollen) which provides a one-time emergency appropriation of $12.5 billion for IDEA, including $500 million for IDEA Part C; $400 million for the IDEA Part B, Section 619 Preschool Program; and $300 million for IDEA Personnel Preparation Grants to compensate for unexpected expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic in light of significant reductions in state budgets.
• Provide $175 billion in emergency relief funds to help school districts address the litany of needs for students playing catch up in the aftermath of COVID-19.

• Provide an additional $100 million for the Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) Grants in Title II of the Higher Education Act.

• Appropriate $5 billion for an Emergency Connectivity Fund, administered through the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) E-Rate program, for schools and libraries to support distance and remote learning for millions of students without home Internet access for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

• Increase CARES Act/COVID-19 funding to support evidence-based professional development on remote learning for special education teachers and support staff.

Take action now to let your Members of Congress know that you support these increases in funding!

Support Additional Relief for Schools in a COVID-19 Relief Bill

Thank you,

Phyllis

Phyllis Wolfram
Executive Director
Council of Administrators of Special Education

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