

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2024

Hon. Robert Aderholt, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education  
and Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We urge you to recognize the importance of the Federal Impact Aid Program as you set the Appropriation Subcommittee's funding priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. We request robust and continued funding for all Impact Aid Program line items, including Section 7003 Basic Support Payments and Section 7002 Federal Property, to ensure all federally connected school districts can provide a quality education.

Congress created Impact Aid in 1950 to recognize the federal government's responsibility to help finance public education in areas impacted by a federal presence. Impact Aid provides a payment in lieu of taxes to local school districts for lost revenue resulting from tax-exempt federal property and actions that have increased expenditures due to the enrollment of federally connected children.

For many districts, Impact Aid funding is not just beneficial – it is a lifeline for their schools' operations. The program provides direct, flexible funding to approximately 1,100 school districts nationwide, supporting a wide range of programs, including facility renovation, teacher retention, technology purchases, and maintenance of transportation fleets. Impact Aid helps provide a foundational education to more than 10 million students, and many schools would be at risk of closure without its vital support.

Congress should prioritize Basic Support to ensure the current payout level to school districts is maintained. For districts enrolling military children, the ability to address both the academic and emotional needs of these students must be sustained. Education is a quality-of-life issue for military families and improving schools serving military students will help the military's ongoing recruitment and retention initiatives.

The needs of districts enrolling children who reside on Tribal lands – of whom over 93 percent are Native American – must be supported as well. These districts are vital to developing culturally responsive curricula, land-based learning, and strong community and cultural relationships that prepare students for lifelong success. These school districts are often located in rural areas with fewer taxpayers and where administrators double as bus drivers, teachers, and coaches.

Federal Property school districts depend on Impact Aid due to a limited local tax base caused by the presence of certain federal land in their districts, including national parks and grasslands,

national laboratories, Army Corps of Engineers projects, and property encompassing the military academies. In some of these communities, the federal government is the largest landowner, significantly diminishing a school district's revenue base. Congress should prioritize this funding stream to reflect the increased value of Federal land in Federal property districts.

Impact Aid funding also provides additional payments to school districts based on the number of federally connected children eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Children with Disabilities line item has not received any increases in years and thus is not keeping up with inflation.

We urge you to support strong and continued funding for the Impact Aid Program. The potential of long-term funding stagnation or program cuts is of grave concern, especially given the changing needs of federally connected districts and the students they serve. Impact Aid is the federal government's obligation and a critical form of tax relief for local communities. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



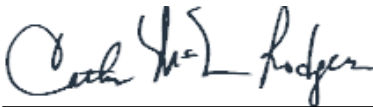
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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



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Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



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August Pfluger  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



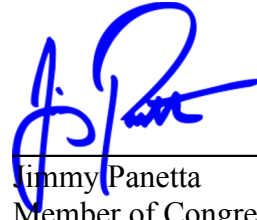
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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress  
Kansas Third District



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Patrick Ryan  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
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Seth Moulton  
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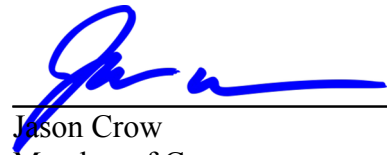
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Mark DeSaulnier  
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Jason Crow  
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Colin Z. Allred  
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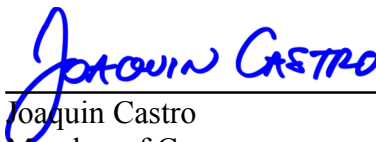
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Diana DeGette  
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Ruben Gallego  
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Joaquin Castro  
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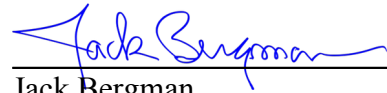
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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



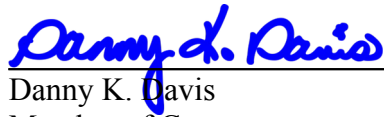
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Andy Kim  
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Jack Bergman  
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Frank D. Lucas  
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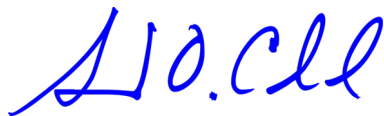
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Steve Cohen  
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Salud Carbajal  
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Bill Foster  
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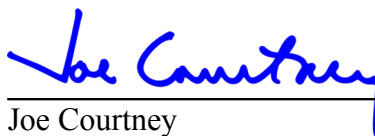
Robin L. Kelly  
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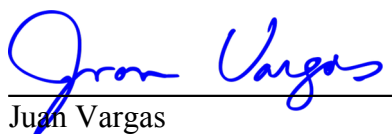
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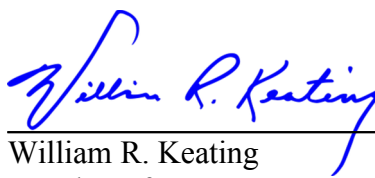
Juan Vargas  
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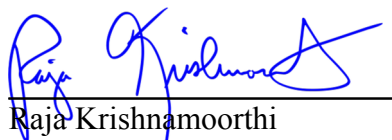
Madeleine Dean  
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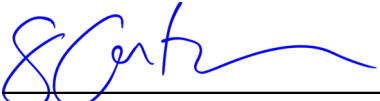
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Jim Tokuda  
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Glenn "GT" Thompson  
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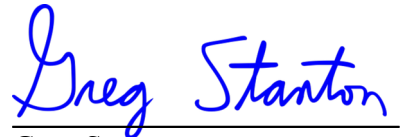
Pete Stauber  
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Sara Jacobs  
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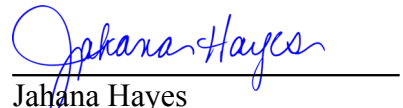
Rashida Tlaib  
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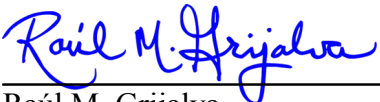
Greg Stanton  
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Gerald E. Connolly  
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Jahana Hayes  
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Raúl M. Grijalva  
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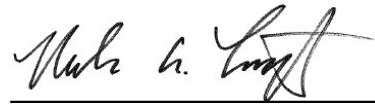


Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



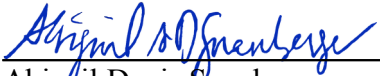
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Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



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Nicholas A. Langworthy  
Member of Congress



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Abigail Davis Spanberger  
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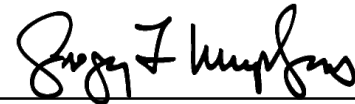
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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



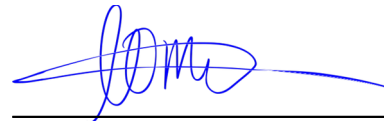
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Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
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Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
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Elise M. Stefanik  
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Darrell Issa  
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