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March 25, 2020

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of AASA, The School Superintendents Association, representing the nation's public school superintendents, I write to express our support for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act, S. 3548).

As our nation responds to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 and our public school system faces an unprecedented volume of school closures in the name of student and staff safety, AASA has doubled down on our support for our members, who are working on the front lines to help ensure the continued safety of their students and staff while increasingly pivoting toward an online or remote learning model. Our members are facing an unknown set of circumstances, and have no real way of knowing how long this will take to play out. Paired with the very likely reality of combining with an economic slowdown or recession, the COVID-19 pandemic requires action by Congress to ensure emergency federal funding is available to and reaches the American people.

As such, we commend you for your work, to date, to respond to the evolving COVID-19 crisis. The CARES Act is the third emergency supplemental in response to the pandemic and represents a bipartisan, significant and multi-faceted response to the crisis. We thank you, in particular, for the improved levels of investment specific to education, and look forward to working with you on additional emergency investment.

We applaud the funding made available for state and local education agencies, an amount totaling just over \$30.75 billion for local public schools and higher education systems, to help education leaders provide educational services with as little disruption as possible. We thank you for recognizing the importance of flexibility in how the funds are spent at the local level.

While this bill is the third emergency supplemental, additional support will be needed. We look forward to working with you and the members of the House to ensure continued support for education; to ensure states do not use federal dollars to backfill cuts in state funding; and to ensure any future education technology funds flow through the already existing federal technology program for schools, E-Rate, instead of as a parallel and duplicative allowable in a broader pot of funding.

Vote YES on the CARES Act (S. 3548).

Sincerely,

Noelle Ellerson Ng
Associate Executive Director, Advocacy & Governance
AASA, The School Superintendents Association