

April 26, 2016

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

Chairmen Blunt and Cole, Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

The undersigned organizations urge you to reject the Administration's Fiscal Year 2017 budget proposal to eliminate funding for Impact Aid Federal Properties.

When Impact Aid was created in 1950, the federal government accepted the responsibility of a citizen, a business owner, or a landlord in helping to finance public education – in areas with a federal presence. Today, Impact Aid provides critical funding to over 1,300 public school districts nationwide that educate military children, children residing on Indian lands, children living in federal low-rent housing facilities, children of civilian employees of the federal government, and the children in school districts with significant tax-exempt federal property.

The budget request recommends the elimination of funding for Impact Aid (Title VII), Section 7002 (Federal Properties) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Currently, this \$67 million line item provides funding to over 200 school districts in 29 states as a replacement for the lost local revenue caused by the federal presence. Each of these school districts is unique – eligible property includes national parks, grasslands and laboratories, Army Corps of Engineers projects, and both the Air Force and West Point Military Academies – however, they all face the same financial challenge: a loss of taxable property and, as a result, a loss of local revenue, but just as many students to educate. In some communities, the federal government is the largest landowner; many federal property school districts are small and in rural areas.

Funding must be maintained for the benefit of all students in these districts. Cuts would cause financial harm as Impact Aid supports personnel and professional development, academic materials, transportation, technology, and other general operating expenses. Elimination of this funding stream would be a reversal on a 67-year commitment to federally impacted communities. We urge you to continue funding Impact Aid Federal Properties.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association
Air Force Sergeants Association
Air Force Women Officers Associated
American Association of Classified School Employees
American Counseling Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Federation of School Administrators

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
American Library Association
American School Counselor Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Arizona State Impact Aid Association
Association for Career and Technical Education
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of School Business Officials International
Association of the United States Army
California Association of Federally Impacted Schools
California School Employees Association
Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association, USCG
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Council of the Great City Schools
Easter Seals
FED ED
Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association
First Focus Campaign for Children
Fleet Reserve Association
Impact Schools of South Dakota
Indian Impact Schools of Montana
Jewish War Veterans of the USA
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Magnet Schools of America
Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)
Mid-to-Low LOT Association
Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)
Military Impacted Schools Association
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Military Order of the Purple Heart
National Association of Counties (NACo)
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Congress of American Indians
National Coalition of Classified Education Support Employee Unions (NCCSEEU)
National Council for Impacted Schools
National Education Association
National Indian Education Association
National Indian Impacted Schools Association
National Military Family Association
National PTA
National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition
National Rural Education Association
National School Boards Association
National Superintendents Roundtable
National Title I Association
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
Oklahoma Association Serving Impacted Schools

Organizations Concerned about Rural Education
Rebuild America's Schools
Rural School and Community Trust
School Social Work Association of America
Texas Association of Federally Impacted Schools
U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association
United States Army Warrant Officers Association
Washington State Impact Aid Association

Cc:

Senate Impact Aid Coalition
House Impact Aid Coalition