

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

November 20, 2020

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

The undersigned 60 education and related national associations **urge Congress to include in an emergency COVID-19 package the provisions in the HEROES Act 2.0 (H.R. 925), that would establish an ensure that students and educators have Internet access from home and appropriate connectivity devices.**

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt teaching and learning across the country. In the last week, the escalating number of COVID cases has caused countless individual schools and entire school districts to close buildings and revert to fully remote learning.¹ When this pandemic began last spring, it exposed plainly the 15-16 million K-12 students and some 400,000 educators who lacked access to the connectivity and technology needed to teach and learn from home during this pandemic. Common Sense Media's recent report, which is based on 2018 data, found that 37% of rural students and 21% of urban students lacked home Internet access. Additionally, the report stated that 35% of Native American students and 30% of students

is the quickest, most efficient and, most importantly, most *equitable way*, to disseminate the funds to public and private schools and public libraries to help ensure K-12 students have Internet access from home and appropriate connection devices.

Congress must face up to this issue right now. As we wrote back in [April](#) and again in [July](#),

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 Mathematics
National Education Association
National League of Cities
National PTA
National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition
National Rural Education Association
National School Boards Association
National Science Teaching Association
Parents as Teachers
Project Tomorrow
Public Advocacy for Kids