



1201 16th Street, NW | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Lily Eskelsen García
President

Rebecca S. Pringle
Vice President

Princess R. Moss
Secretary-Treasurer

Kim A. Anderson
Executive Director

June 30, 2020

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to VOTE YES on the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2), which includes the Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act that would provide significant, much-needed support for public schools and the students most in need. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

Why educators support this legislation

- The bill would create a \$100 billion grant program that targets high-poverty schools and a \$30 billion tax-credit bond program for repairing, renovating, and modernizing school facilities that pose health and safety risks to students and staff.
- The bill would also provide \$5 billion in funding to help close the digital divide and equip more students to go online. Nationwide, as many as 12 million students—1 in 5—are unable to do schoolwork at home due to lack of internet access.

Poor conditions undermine student learning

America spends more on public school facilities than any part of our infrastructure except roads and highways. Yet many of our 100,000 public school buildings are poorly equipped or in poor physical condition—so poor it undermines student learning. Here are the facts:

- Half our public schools are more than 50 years old, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.
- More than half our public school facilities need significant repairs or replacement of multiple systems, according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO).
- Nearly half our public schools have poor air quality, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Many public schools, especially in rural areas, still do not have access to high-speed broadband sufficient for digital learning.

Please VOTE YES on H.R. 2 when it comes to the floor.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association