

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-233, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairwoman Lowey, and Ranking Member Granger:

As Congress moves forward on a new recovery package to assist those affected by the coronavirus pandemic, we ask that you assist families affected by the closing of schools and afterschool programs. Given the constraints placed on families, and youth serving organizations, we ask that you provide an additional \$500 million for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.

As states move to close schools throughout the country, we must remember the families who rely on out-of-school learning and community programs. More than two million children and families rely on afterschool and summer learning programs which receive funding through the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. Not only do these programs provide youth with the opportunity to obtain critical academic and life skills and help provide better academic outcomes for students, they also provide a critical sense of relief for parents who know that their children are safe and cared for in the hours that they are working. The ongoing crisis has placed a severe burden on youth serving organizations, including non-profits, faith-based organizations, private providers. Additional resources will be needed to minimize the economic impact on employers and employees, provide families with reimbursements for emergency disruptions in programming, offset the cost of deep cleaning and sanitizing facilities, and maintaining educational and nutrition services to students that would normally be in school.

These programs will need to ensure that young people receive the support they need in the long term. This will mean that Summer programs this Summer, and afterschool programs next fall will have to accommodate more students, meaning that additional programs will need to be supported. Resources will be needed to ensure that quality learning programs will be available to the most vulnerable populations. By providing a short-term increase of \$500 million for 21st

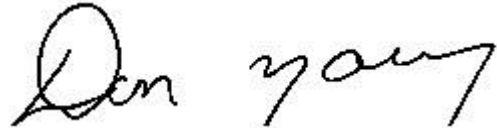
Century Community Learning Centers, an additional 500,000 students from Pre-K through high school will be able to access these programs.

We thank you for your leadership during this time of crisis, and for your continued support of students and families.

Sincerely,



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress

House Members Also Co-Signing:

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
André Carson
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Danny K. Davis
Peter A. DeFazio
Antonio Delgado
Debbie Dingell
Mike Doyle
Brian Fitzpatrick
Marcia L. Fudge
Tulsi Gabbard
Ruben Gallego
Sylvia R. Garcia
Vicente Gonzalez
Deb Haaland
Jim Himes
Kendra S. Horn
Pramila Jayapal
William R. Keating
Joseph P. Kennedy, III

John B. Larson
Susie Lee
Dave Loebsack
Alan Lowenthal
Gwen Moore
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Stacey E. Plaskett
Ayanna Pressley
Harley Rouda
Bobby L. Rush
Jan Schakowsky
Donna E. Shalala
Albio Sires
Elissa Slotkin
Adam Smith
Bennie G. Thompson
Mike Thompson
Rashida Tlaib
Paul D. Tonko
David Trone
Nydia M. Velázquez

Conor Lamb
Jim Langevin

Peter Welch
John Yarmuth