

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 23, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

President Biden,

It has been nearly one year since many students across the country moved to full-time virtual learning, and the consequences could not be clearer. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, switching to online learning was necessary while Americans learned more about the virus and its impact on our students, teachers, and families. However, as time passed and we learned more about the adverse effects that school closures have on the mental, physical, and social well-being of our children, many schools re-evaluated the impact of online learning. Some schools have found innovative ways to successfully return children back to school while keeping teachers and families safe, but many students are still stuck at home with no concrete plans of returning to the classroom.

Despite Congress providing over \$60 billion in federal funding and experts recommending a return to the classroom, teachers unions wield an incredible influence on forcing school districts to remain closed. Unions continue to claim it is “unsafe” to return students to an environment critical to their success, when we know that in-school spread of COVID-19 is rare when proper precautions are taken. We are very familiar with the measures that school districts have taken to ensure the safety of students, teachers, and workers as schools re-opened across the nation. Not only have these measures been successful in returning children to in-person learning, but it has also allowed families to return to work and revitalize our economy.

The science is clear: all schools can and should reopen to in-person learning. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has continuously stated that opening schools does not significantly increase transmission of COVID-19, as the transmission rate is very low for school age children. If a school or school district continues to ignore the wellbeing of their students and remain closed, the funds that have been appropriated by Congress should be distributed directly to families through an Education Savings Account (ESA). Families should be able to use this funding to find alternative educational opportunities that will serve their student today. If a school district refuses to re-open, they should not receive the federal funding intended for reopening. Congress should reallocate that funding to the families disadvantaged by their school district’s defiance of science and commonsense policies.

It is our responsibility to ensure every student and family has the freedom and opportunity to pursue educational and developmental excellence. It is simple: schools across the country have the resources to re-open to in-person learning, and they must do so immediately.

Sincerely,



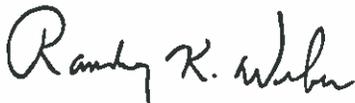
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