



National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

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December 17, 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS), we write to express our support for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Omnibus Appropriations bill (House amendment 2 to H.R. 2209). NAFIS strongly supports the \$17 million increase for Impact Aid Basic Support, and the restoration of funding for Federal Properties.

NAFIS represents the 1,200-plus Impact Aid-recipient school districts nationwide, serving more than 10 million Federal and non-Federal students. Impact Aid is a partnership between communities and the Federal government where there is non-taxable property, such as military installations, Indian lands, low-rent housing, and national parks and laboratories. Congress recognized in 1950 that the Federal government had an obligation to help meet the local responsibility of financing public education in areas impacted by a Federal presence. That same recognition holds true today.

Having a final funding level prior to the end of the calendar year will provide the budget certainty federally impacted school districts need to prepare future budgets and ensure the U.S. Department of Education can allocate payments in a timely manner. As a current-year funded program, any additional delay in a final appropriation, and thus the disbursement of Impact Aid funds, would create serious financial challenges for school districts that rely on this tax replacement for a variety of critical expenditures, such as academic materials, teacher salaries, and transportation.

We are thrilled Congress agreed to a two-year stay of sequestration in approving the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015. This new law prevented an additional round of funding cuts and created an opportunity for Congress to provide sorely-needed investments in a range of critical discretionary programs, including Impact Aid.

We are grateful the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-Health and Human Services-Education prioritized Impact Aid Basic Support payments early in the appropriations process, providing a \$10 million increase. NAFIS estimates the \$17 million increase provided in the omnibus with available funds under the Bipartisan Budget Act, while insufficient to increase the LOT payout to 100-percent, would cover the increased costs of education over this past year, thereby maintaining the current LOT payout.

NAFIS appreciates the continued bipartisan, bicameral support for Federal Property school districts despite repeated requests by the Administration to eliminate funding. Additional resources are required in future years to maintain the foundation payment for all districts, while ensuring sufficient funds are available for newly eligible districts, as well as those coming into the program with the passage of the

THE NAFIS FAMILY

MISA

Military Impacted
Schools Association

NIISA

National Indian Impacted
Schools Association

FLISA

Federal Lands Impacted
Schools Association

MTLLS

Mid-to-Low-LOT
Schools

Every Student Succeeds Act.

Federally impacted school districts have faced funding cuts and significant budgetary uncertainty over the past several years. The two-year stability under the Bipartisan Budget Act and the increased investment in Impact Aid are a welcome relief to federally impacted communities. We commend the return to normal order with this omnibus and urge you to approve it to provided federally impacted schools with critical resources.

Sincerely,



Hilary Goldmann
Executive Director
NAFIS



Jocelyn Bissonnette
Director of Government Affairs
NAFIS