**Sample email to Senators and Representatives**

Dear \_\_\_:

I write today in support of the education funding provisions contained within the Budget Reconciliation bill that Congress is considering. I request that you not support any amendment to the bill’s $130 billion for K-12 COVID-19 relief or $7 billion for Homework Gap support that would reduce funding for those provisions or impose conditions on schools and school districts spending those dollars. America’s students, teachers and parents desperately need access to these funds immediately and without strings.

As a K-12 educator in [NAME OF SCHOOL OR DISTRICT], I have seen firsthand how devastating the past year’s COVID-19 school building closures have been and continue to be for our community. In order for schools to reopen and stay open safely, it is critical that they have additional needed financial resources. These resources will allow schools and districts to meet critical instructional needs, including professional learning, that will help ameliorate the learning loss from which so many of our students are suffering. The $130 billion in K-12 funding included within the Budget Reconciliation bill before you is necessary to allow schools to return to normal, particularly with the financial downturn in our state and region as a result of the pandemic.

Additionally, I recognize that many students and teachers will not be able to return to their school buildings as quickly as we would like because they live in high transmission areas or have health conditions that make in-person teaching and learning too risky. In order for those students and teachers to participate in remote learning, they must have home Internet access and far too many still do not. In fact, recent studies indicate that millions of students and thousands of teachers – many of them low-income, people of color, or residing in rural and remote areas – lack home Internet access, a computer appropriate for remote learning, or both. The Budget Reconciliation bill’s inclusion of $7 billion to bridge the “Homework Gap” is urgently needed now to allow students and teachers to participate in teaching and learning. It is also needed in the future to ensure that students have the same level of home Internet connectivity as their wealthier peers in order to conduct online research, communicate with their teachers, apply for college and employment, apply for government services, and so much more.

Thank you for your time and attention to this most urgent matter.

Sincerely,