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Rep. Luján Delivers Letter from District Superintendents Urging Restoration of Education Funds

Twenty-five Superintendents Join Rep. Luján to Fight for Critical Support for Schools

Washington, DC - Today, Rep. Ben Ray Luján delivered a letter to Congressional leadership signed by twenty-five superintendents from the 3rd Congressional District, urging the restoration of education funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The letter urges inclusion of the House-passed education figures in the final conference report. The House version of the bill included significant support to local school districts for school construction, Title 1-A and IDEA - programs that will benefit students and help get our economy back on track.

"I am proud to join twenty-five superintendents from my district to encourage the restoration of education funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act," said Rep. Luján.

"Education measures in the House version would create jobs and prepare our children for the future through investment in school modernization, repair and renovation projects, and funding to protect key education programs. Funding to the state fiscal stabilization fund will protect jobs and prevent cuts in critical state services. "

"School construction puts people back to work, and funding to states to prevent education cuts keeps teachers in the classroom where they can prepare young people for the jobs of the future," said Rep. Luján. "As the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan moves forward, I am proud to join with superintendents from my district to urge leadership to maintain support for education and school construction."

The twenty-five signatories included superintendents of the Santa Fe Public Schools, Albuquerque Public Schools, Central Consolidated Schools, Cimarron Municipal Schools, Clayton Municipal Schools, Clovis Municipal Schools, Des Moines Municipal Schools, Espanola Municipal Schools, Gallup-McKinley County Public Schools, Hondo Valley Public Schools, Jemez Mountain Public Schools, Logan Municipal Schools, Los Alamos Public Schools, Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools, Mora Independent Schools, Penasco Independent Schools, Pojoaque Valley Public Schools, Raton Public Schools, Roy Municipal Schools, Taos Municipal

Schools, Tatum Public Schools, Tucumcari Public Schools, Wagon Mound Public Schools, West Las Vegas Public Schools, Zuni Public Schools, and Springer Municipal Schools.

"When the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was passed by the House of Representatives, it included millions of dollars in funding for New Mexico's schools, including over \$163 million in estimated funding for local school districts in New Mexico's Third Congressional District," wrote the superintendents in the letter. "This money would enable us to modernize the classrooms, assist in funding our special education programs, and provide vital resources to improve the facilities utilized by our students every day. Now we are worried that these funds, which are critically important to the investment and future of our children, will be left out of the recovery plan. We strongly urge the United States Congress to ensure that funds for education in our school districts are included in the final version of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. "

The House passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act last week. The House version of the legislation included \$329 million to New Mexico for K-12 education and over \$39 million to New Mexico for higher education modernization, renovation, and repair. It also included \$419 million to New Mexico for the state fiscal stabilization fund, which could prevent cuts in the state education budget. The Senate compromise removed \$16 billion school construction, \$40 billion for the state fiscal stabilization fund, and all of the funding for higher education modernization, renovation, and repair.

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