

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2018

The Honorable Pete Sessions
Chairman
House Rules Committee
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James McGovern
Ranking Member
House Rules Committee
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

We write to express our strong support for the federal Impact Aid program and to encourage the Committee on Rules to not make in order potential Amendments to H.R. 5515, the Fiscal Year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act that would repurpose Impact Aid funds for anything other than their currently authorized purposes. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Since 1950, the federal government has recognized the importance of assisting federally-impacted communities financially support their local education agencies (LEAs) due to the presence of non-taxable federal property in their area. Most funds for public education are derived from local property tax revenues, with other state and federal programs serving to supplement LEA budgets.

The Impact Aid program reflects a clear federal obligation: to compensate local communities for the inability to collect property tax revenues from non-taxable federal property and ensure that children attending public schools in federally-impacted communities have access to a high quality public education. Impact Aid provides financial support to more than 1,000 school districts on or near non-taxable property, such as military installations and Indian lands. In many cases, it comprises a significant portion of an LEA's budget.

The current Impact Aid program enjoys widespread, bipartisan support. It was reauthorized in 2016 as part of the Conference Report to the *Every Student Succeeds Act*, which passed the House with 359 votes in favor. More recently, 103 Republicans and Democrats wrote the House Committee on Appropriations in support of funding for the program in the FY 2019 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Act.

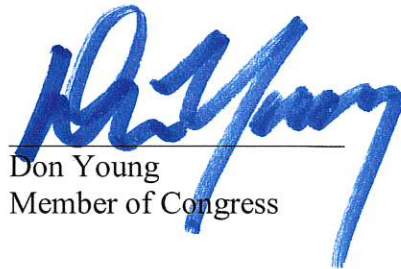
Impact Aid provides efficient, flexible, and targeted support to federally-impacted LEAs. Significant changes to important public policy programs, such as Impact Aid, should first be considered by the committee of jurisdiction, in this case the House Committee on Education and Workforce, and involve a legislative process that provides all members adequate opportunity to deliberate and debate the merits and potential consequences of the proposal. The NDAA bill is not the correct vehicle to consider or make such substantial changes in education policy.

Therefore, we request that the Committee on Rules not make in order any proposed Amendments to H.R. 5515, the FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act that would fundamentally alter the existing program and potentially undermine the federal government's obligations to LEAs in federally-impacted communities.

Sincerely,



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



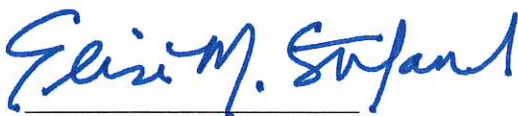
Don Young
Member of Congress



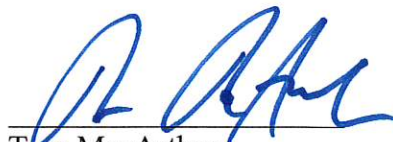
Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



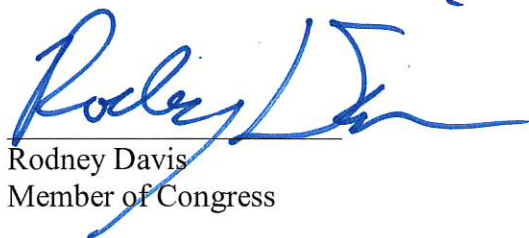
Will Hurd
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress




Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress


Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress


Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress


Dave Reichert
Member of Congress


Greg Walden
Member of Congress


John Shimkus
Member of Congress


Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress


Ryan Costello
Member of Congress