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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2803**

March 7, 2019

Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

I am writing to ask for strong investments in school infrastructure in your Fiscal Year 2020 budget request. Decades of inadequate funding for public education have resulted in overcrowded classrooms, districts unable to recruit qualified teachers, and a rate of new school construction that severely lags population growth. Study after study has proven that high-quality facilities and smaller class sizes help improve academic achievement. The need to improve our school infrastructure has bipartisan support among students, teachers, and parents, all of whom will benefit when we take bold action and invest in K-12 school infrastructure.

The lack of investment in school infrastructure regionally affects high-density and high growth areas. According to a 2017 report, in Nevada's Clark County School District – the fifth largest in the nation – 66 percent of schools are operating over capacity. A 2018 study found that Nevada had the largest average class sizes in the nation for the past two years, with some high school classrooms topping 50 students.

The Committee for Education Funding recently calculated that federal funding for the Department of Education is \$7 billion below the 2011 enacted level of \$68.3 billion, after adjusting for inflation. Historically underfunding the Title 1-A basic grant program of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, compounds the lack of investment to build better learning ecosystems for our nation's students and teachers. Recent discussions and pledges regarding investing in our nation's infrastructure have generated bipartisan support. It is imperative that these larger conversations concerning infrastructure also include schools across the country. As the Administration evaluates different budgetary proposals, I recommend robust funding for our nation's school infrastructure to promote better student outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susie Lee".

Susie Lee  
Member of Congress