



Keep Our Promise to America's Children and Teachers Act

Led by Congresswoman Susie Lee (D-NV) and Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

The Need:

- Title I and the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) are two keys for enabling our nation's most vulnerable to attain high-quality elementary and secondary educations.
 - Unfortunately, the federal government has long failed to live up to its promise to fully fund these programs, seriously setting back those in greatest need.
- First authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Part A of the Title I program supports educational services for students at schools with high concentrations of low-income families and a history of underperformance.
 - However, Title I has been seriously underfunded for decades: from 2005 to 2017, the program lost out on an about \$347 billion, relative to authorization.¹
 - This \$27-billion shortfall annually has prevented Nevada and other states from providing disadvantaged students the meaningful support they need to thrive.
 - Chronic underfunding of these key programs has held back vulnerable schools in Clark County, Nevada, and beyond—weakening their ability to address issues like school safety, teacher retention, and mental health.
- Similarly, IDEA has been dramatically underfunded since its authorization in 1975, limiting the law's potential for advancing educational opportunity for children with disabilities through its Part B grants to states.
 - This underfunding has shortchanged Nevada schools by an estimated \$1.96 billion in IDEA grants between 2005 and 2017, greatly diminishing their ability to serve children with disabilities.²
- Especially while schools face the difficulties of addressing school safety, learning loss, and staff recruitment, we cannot afford to keep setting back America's most vulnerable children by continuing to underfund these critical programs.
 - Education is the surest path for our children to succeed, and we must keep our promise to ensure all students are allowed to achieve their fullest potential.

What the *Keep Our PACT Act* does:

- The *Keep Our Promise to America's Children and Teachers (PACT) Act* would set right the longtime underfunding of Title I and IDEA by charting a fiscally responsible path for Congress to fund these key education programs fully and reliably.
 - The legislation bill lays out a clear road map to fund Title I and IDEA and to ensure all children have access to a quality education, no matter their zip code.
 - It prioritizes education in the federal budget by transitioning these two critical programs towards full funding on a mandatory basis over a ten-year period.

- The *Keep Our PACT Act* would help ensure that all children—in Nevada and across the nation—have the opportunity to learn and grow, with access to quality schools, great teachers, and the additional support needed to overcome barriers to success.

Nevada Support for the *Keep Our PACT Act*:

"The Nevada Association of School Administrators (NASA) fully endorses the Keep Our Promise to America's Children and Teachers (PACT) Act because we believe this ACT fully supports the many initiatives that help advance ALL of America's children."

- *Dr. Jeffrey Geihs, Executive Director of the Nevada Association of School Administrators*

"The Nevada State Education Association (NSEA) believes that public education is the great equalizer; all students have a basic right to a great public school. That is why NSEA has endorsed the Keep Our Promise to America's Children and Teachers Act, sponsored by Representative Susie Lee. A high-quality public education system helps address inequalities in opportunity and disparities in resources. The Keep Our PACT Act will work to fully fund Title I and IDEA programs while ensuring Nevada's most vulnerable students have access to high-quality education with great teachers and education support professionals supporting our kids at every step."

- *Dawn Etcheverry, President of the Nevada State Education Association*

"If we want all of our students to succeed and be part of Nevada's thriving future, we need to address and fully fund their full needs and supports at an early stage. I'm happy to see the Keep Our PACT Act re-introduced, as I've witnessed firsthand how this critical funding can help increase academic achievement which leads to increased access, participation and success in post-secondary education."

- *Dale A. R. Erquiaga, Acting Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education*

"I want to thank Congresswoman Lee for her leadership in reintroducing the Keep Our Promise to America's Children and Teachers (PACT) Act. This bill will help remove financial barriers and make it possible for more students – regardless of their circumstances – to achieve their educational goals and dreams."

- *Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, President of University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

National Support for the *Keep Our PACT Act*:

"I commend Senator Chris Van Hollen and Representative Susie Lee for introducing the Keep Our PACT Act and for their sustained commitment to children and youth with disabilities. This legislation signals that Congress is serious about keeping its promise to share the cost of supporting students with disabilities. Fully funding IDEA, a Federal civil rights law designed to ensure educational opportunity for students with disabilities, is an investment in our nation's students and the future."

- *Chad Rummel, Executive Director of the Council for Exceptional Children*

"We are proud to once again endorse the Keep Our Promise to America's Children's Act which fully funds the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The Keep Our PACT Act ensures that no matter the zip code, disadvantaged and student with disabilities have equal access to a well-rounded, high-quality public education. We must do right by our children and invest in their education which also strengthens our nation."

- *Marc Egan, Director of Government Relations, National Education Association*

"Passing the Keep Our PACT Act would infuse our schools with funds educators and kids need to thrive. With increased investment in programs like Title I and IDEA, we can provide our most vulnerable students the boost they need to succeed, breaking down barriers and giving every child the chance to shine. School leaders are ready to work with Congress to get this done."

- *Ronn Nozoe, CEO of National Association of Secondary School Principals*

"The National Center for Learning Disabilities strongly believes that Congress must keep their pact made nearly 50 years ago to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Our nation's schools need resources to provide a high-quality education for every child being served by IDEA and the federal government must make strides in fulfilling their pledge. We commend Senator Van Hollen and Representative Susie Lee for their leadership and addressing the chronic underfunding of IDEA and Title I."

- *Dr. Jacqueline Rodriguez, CEO of the National Center for Learning Disabilities*

National Endorsing Organizations:

- American Federation of Teachers
- Council for Exceptional Children
- Council of Great City Schools
- Journey for Justice Alliance
- National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
- National Center for Learning Disabilities
- National Disability Rights Network
- National Education Association
- National Urban League
- UnidosUS

Nevada Endorsing Organizations:

- Nevada Education Association
- Nevada Association of School Administrators
- Nevada System of Higher Education
- Communities in Schools of Nevada
- College of Southern Nevada
- Great Basin College
- Nevada State College
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- University of Nevada, Reno
- Western Nevada College

House Original Cosponsors for the 118th Congress (55): Alma Adams Ph.D., Becca Balint, Nanette Barragan, Suzanne Bonamici, Shontel Brown, Salud Carbajal, Troy Carter, Sean Casten, Joaquin Castro, Yvette D. Clarke, Emanuel Cleaver, II, Angie Craig, Jasmine Crockett, Danny K. Davis, Mark DeSaulnier, Adriano Espaillat, Dwight Evans, Lois Frankel, Robert Garcia, Jesús "Chuy" García, Jimmy Gomez, Al Green, Jahana Hayes, Jim Himes, Steven Horsford, Val Hoyle, Sara Jacobs, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr., Derek Kilmer, Ann McLane Kuster, Greg Landsman, Stephen F. Lynch, Betty McCollum, Morgan McGarvey, Gwen Moore, Seth Moulton, Jerry Nadler, Grace F. Napolitano, Joe Neguse, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Donald M. Payne, Jr., Mark Pocan, Katie Porter, Linda Sanchez, John Sarbanes, Mary Gay Scanlon, Jan Schakowsky, Terri Sewell, Haley Stevens, Marilyn Strickland, Dina Titus, Rashida Tlaib, Jill Tokuda, David Trone, Nydia M. Velázquez, Nikema Williams

Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) leads the *Keep Our PACT Act* in the Senate.

For more information or to cosponsor or endorse this bill, please contact: Nelisha Silva, nelisha.silva@mail.house.gov, or Bowen Peard, bowen.peard@mail.house.gov, in Congresswoman Susie Lee's office.

¹ http://educationdebt.reclaimourschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Confronting-the-Education-Debt_FullReport.pdf

² http://educationdebt.reclaimourschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Confronting-the-Education-Debt_FullReport.pdf