## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker of the House U.S. House of Representatives H-233, U.S. Capitol Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey Chairwoman House Committee on Appropriations H-307, U.S. Capitol Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Kevin McCarthy Minority Leader U.S. House of Representatives H-204, U.S. Capitol Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger Ranking Member House on Appropriations 1016 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairwoman Lowey, and Ranking Member Granger:

As Congress moves forward on a new recovery package to assist those affected by the coronavirus pandemic, we ask that you assist families affected by the closing of schools and afterschool programs. Given the constraints placed on families, and youth serving organizations, we ask that you provide an additional \$500 million for the Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers program.

As states move to close schools throughout the country, we must remember the families who rely on out-of-school learning and community programs. More than two million children and families rely on afterschool and summer learning programs which receive funding through the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. Not only do these programs provide youth with the opportunity to obtain critical academic and life skills and help provide better academic outcomes for students, they also provide a critical sense of relief for parents who know that their children are safe and cared for in the hours that they are working. The ongoing crisis has placed a severe burden on youth serving organizations, including non-profits, faith-based organizations, private providers. Additional resources will be needed to minimize the economic impact on employers and employees, provide families with reimbursements for emergency disruptions in programming, offset the cost of deep cleaning and sanitizing facilities, and maintaining educational and nutrition services to students that would normally be in school.

These programs will need to ensure that young people receive the support they need in the long term. This will mean that Summer programs this Summer, and afterschool programs next fall will have to accommodate more students, meaning that additional programs will need to be supported. Resources will be needed to ensure that quality learning programs will be available to the most vulnerable populations. By providing a short-term increase of \$500 million for 21<sup>st</sup>

Century Community Learning Centers, an additional 500,000 students from Pre-K through high school will be able to access these programs.

We thank you for your leadership during this time of crisis, and for your continued support of students and families.

Sincerely,

David N. Cicilline *Member of Congress* 

Don Young

Member of Congress

## **House Members Also Co-Signing:**

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

Lisa Blunt Rochester

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.

André Carson

Dave Loebsack

Alan Lowenthal

Gwen Moore

Danny K. Davis

Dave Loebsack

Alan Lowenthal

Gwen Moore

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Peter A. DeFazio Donald M. Payne, Jr. Antonio Delgado Stacey E. Plaskett Debbie Dingell Ayanna Pressley Mike Doyle Harley Rouda Bobby L. Rush Brian Fitzpatrick Marcia L. Fudge Jan Schakowsky Tulsi Gabbard Donna E. Shalala Albio Sires Ruben Gallego Sylvia R. Garcia Elissa Slotkin

Vicente Gonzalez

Deb Haaland

Bennie G. Thompson

Jim Himes

Kendra S. Horn

Rashida Tlaib

Pramila Jayapal

Paul D. Tonko

William R. Keating

David Trone

Joseph P. Kennedy, III Nydia M. Velázquez

Conor Lamb Jim Langevin Peter Welch John Yarmuth