



National Parent Teacher Association ? Council of The Great City Schools ? National Education Association
American Federation of Teachers ? American Association of School Administrators ? National School Boards Association
National Association of Elementary School Principals ? National Association of Secondary School Principals
NAACP ? National Association of Federally Impacted Schools ? American Institute of Architects
Organizations Concerned About Rural Education ? National Rural Education Association
Californians for School Facilities

September 16, 2009

The Honorable George Miller, Chair
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

Rebuild America's Schools is writing to express our support for the **Student Financial Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, H.R. 3221 which will ensure long term funding for Pell Grants and other critical student financial aid programs. The Act will also fund modern, safe and technologically advanced schools for the 21st Century.** Modern energy efficient schools will help local communities increase opportunities for all students to develop the educational skills necessary to achieve and succeed in the 21st century workforce. We ask that the House of Representatives pass this much needed legislation to ensure the funding of student aid programs and also provide a grant program to modernize, renovate and repair public schools.

The demands of today's educational programs and services are overwhelming the structural capacity of the average school in America built almost fifty years ago. Many urban and rural schools were built much earlier than the 1960's. Growing communities across our country cannot build schools fast enough to accommodate increasing student populations. Too many of America's children go to school in overcrowded buildings with leaky roofs, faulty electrical systems, and outdated technology all of which compromises their ability to achieve, succeed and build the educational foundations necessary for the workforce of the 21st century.

The Public School Facility modernization, renovation and repair provisions of the Student Financial Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act will assist states and local communities in meeting these staggering needs through federal grants to local school districts for energy efficient school modernization projects. The Federal Government would provide \$4 billion in grants to states and local school districts. The federal grants will help states and communities stretch their limited resources to pay for additional school facility projects and essential education programs.

H.R. 3221 will fund Pell grants and other student aid programs while providing the resources to repair, renovate and modernize America's schools. It will stimulate the creation of more than 100,000 new jobs. These jobs will be generated in the construction industry among suppliers, ranging from architects and engineers to roofing contractors and other construction workers who modernize, renovate and repair schools.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS
Akron, OH
Aldine, TX
Birmingham City, AL
Birmingham Public, AL
Boston, MA
Broward County, FL
Brownsville, TX
Chicago, IL
Cincinnati, OH
Clark County, NV
Compton, CA
Corpus Christi, TX
Dayton, OH
Detroit, MI
Escambia, FL
Houston, TX
Jefferson Parish, LA
Jersey City, NJ
McAllen, TX
Memphis, TN
Miami-Dade, FL
Milwaukee, WI
Minneapolis, MN
Montgomery, AL
Nashville, TN
Newark, NJ
New Orleans, LA
New York, NY
Norfolk, VA
Oklahoma City, OK
Omaha, NE
Pharr-San Juan-Alamo, TX
Philadelphia, PA
Providence, RI
Richmond, VA
Rochester, NY
Savannah-Chatham, GA
St. Louis, MO
St. Paul, MN
Toledo, OH
Tulsa, OK
Ysleta, TX

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The Public School Facility modernization, renovation and repair provisions of the Student Financial Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009 under consideration in the House provides a federal investment to help renovate, repair and modernize thousands of public schools. School districts in every state have school renovation and repair projects that can be underway very quickly if federal financial resources are available to help underwrite the project costs.

Rebuild America's Schools asks that the House approve The Student Financial Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. Modern, more energy efficient, green and better schools will improve the learning environment for students, and enhance the workplace for students, teachers and school administrators. Most importantly modern schools will advance student achievement in urban, rural and suburban communities in every state.

Thank you.

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National School Boards Association
National PTA
Organizations Concerned About Rural Education
National Association of Secondary School Principals
American Institute of Architects
Association of Educational Service Agencies
National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition
Californians for School Facilities
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Ecobuild America
AEC Science and Technology
21st Century School Fund
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
Council of Educational Facility Planners International
American Association of University Women**