



National Association of
Elementary School
Principals

January 27, 2009

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), the professional association representing nearly 28,000 elementary and middle-level principals, I'm writing in strong support of H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Due to state budget shortfalls and a reduction in local property taxes across the country, schools have already begun laying off teachers and key support staff. H.R. 1 includes an unprecedented investment in America's schools that will enable districts to retain key teachers and support staff while focusing funding on continuing educational activities for students and families.

NAESP supports H.R. 1, and asks that you vote in favor of the bill when it comes to a vote. We are particularly pleased to support:

- The inclusion of \$41 billion for Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and school technology. These funds will provide significant relief to cash-strapped districts already facing cuts to programs and staff. The infusion of funds for IDEA will bolster critical funding for required special education programs and activities while simultaneously relieving the pressure on schools' general fund budgets.
- The inclusion of funds for school construction projects that will enable districts to conduct much needed renovations, repairs, and modernization to school facilities, including technology infrastructure enhancements.
- The inclusion of \$79 billion for state fiscal relief to prevent cutbacks to key state-funded programs, of which at least \$39 billion is reserved for local school districts and public colleges and universities.

Thank you for your support of this important legislation. Should you or your staff have any questions about this or any other issue, please contact Sally McConnell or Abbie Evans of my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Connelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gail" being more prominent and larger than the last name "Connelly".

Gail Connelly
Executive Director

Serving All Elementary and Middle Level Principals

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