

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

August 4, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Schumer:

As you develop legislation to strengthen our nation's infrastructure, we urge you to include vital investments in school infrastructure on the scale called for in the Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act and President Biden's American Jobs Plan.

Currently, our school facilities are not making the grade. School infrastructure earned a [D+](#) on the American Society of Civil Engineers Report Card for America's Infrastructure. A [June 2020 report](#) from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on the state of school infrastructure—the agency's first report on the subject since 1996—found that *54 percent of school districts across the country* must replace or update major systems in more than half their buildings. The 2016 [State of Our Schools Report](#) found that state and local governments spend \$46 billion less than what is required to update and maintain their school facilities.

The pandemic has only underscored the fact that our public schools are critical community infrastructure. Our students and families rely on them for education, nutrition, health care, and enrichment activities. They are often the safest places for our most vulnerable youth. They are community-meeting spaces. They are our polling places. They are a shared resource and vital to community health and well-being.

An investment of at least \$100 billion in school facilities will be critical to achieving the full promise of the American Families Plan for our middle and working class communities. Without an upgrade to school facilities, these communities will struggle to implement universal preschool, expand school nutrition programs, achieve climate resiliency, close the digital divide, and recruit and retain educators. Furthermore, failure to adequately invest in school facilities will undermine our march towards racial and economic justice, as these are the communities with the lowest tax bases and fewest resources for capital improvements.

As we embark on a once-in-a-generation investment in our nation's infrastructure, we must take active steps to upgrade the physical and information technology infrastructure of our public schools. Our recovery and future prosperity will depend on it. Thank you for your consideration.

Cc: The Honorable Robert "Bobby" Scott, Chair, Education and Labor Committee
The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair, Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee
The Honorable John Yarmuth, Chair, House Budget Committee
The Honorable Bernard Sanders, Chair, Senate Budget Committee

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

/s/ Marie Newman

Marie Newman
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



André Carson
Member of Congress



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

/s/ Anthony G. Brown

Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator

/s/ Mark Pocan

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



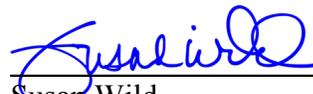
Benjamin L. Cardin
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Tina Smith
United States Senator

/s/ Ted W. Lieu

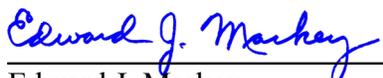
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator

/s/ Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

/s/ Grace F. Napolitano

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/s/ Elaine G. Luria

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Member of Congress



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

/s/ Juan Vargas

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/ Suzanne Bonamici

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

/s/ Steven Horsford

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

/s/ Mark DeSaulnier

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

/s/ Frederica S. Wilson

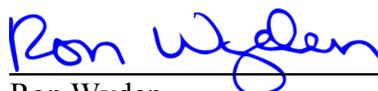
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

/s/ Adriano Espaillat

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Chellie Pingree
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Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Andy Levin
Member of Congress



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

/s/ John Garamendi

John Garamendi
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Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

/s/ Josh Harder

Josh Harder
Member of Congress



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



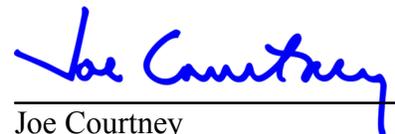
Dina Titus
Member of Congress

/s/ Joaquin Castro

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

/s/ Alma S. Adams

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

/s/ Mondaire Jones

Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
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Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

/s/ Pramila Jayapal

Pramila Jayapal
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Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

/s/ Bonnie Watson Coleman

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

/s/ Kathy E. Manning

Kathy E. Manning
Member of Congress

/s/ Nanette Diaz Barragán

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

/s/ Jason Crow

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

/s/ Frank J. Mrvan

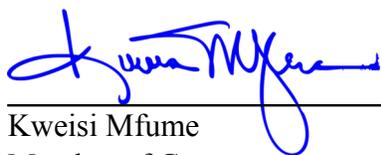
Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress

/s/ Stephen F. Lynch

Stephen F. Lynch
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Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress

/s/ David N. Cicilline

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Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

/s/ Lucy McBath

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

/s/ Kathy Castor

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

/s/ Raúl M. Grijalva

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/s/ William R. Keating

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Adam Smith
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Seth Moulton
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/s/ John B. Larson

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Betty McCollum
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Debbie Dingell
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/s/ Grace Meng

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Conor Lamb
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/s/ Michael F. Q. San Nicolas

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/s/ John P. Sarbanes

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

/s/ Linda T. Sánchez

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

/s/ Dwight E. Evans

Dwight E. Evans
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