

**NIEA TALKING POINTS ON THE STIMULUS PACKAGE –
AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT**

FEBRUARY 11, 2009

The House passed its version of the bill (H.R. 1) on January 27th. The Senate will likely pass its version of the bill (S. 1) on February 10, 2009. The House and the Senate will convene a conference committee (comprised of Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees but Members of Senate HELP and House Ed and Labor will have influence over the bill also) on either February 10th or 11th to reconcile the differences between the two versions of the bill. The Congress is working to reconcile the differing provisions of the bills this week and is seeking passage of the final bill before President's Day on February 16th.

TALKING POINTS WITH THE SENATE - (WE WANT SENATE TO RECEDE TO HOUSE BILL)

- Express your strong support for a stimulus package that funds education.
- Thank Members and their staff for working to improve public works and infrastructure in your communities (such as BIE school construction, IRR roads, Indian housing under NAHASDA, IHS facilities construction and sanitation).
- **School Construction:** Request information about why the Senate eliminated the new program on new K-12 school construction and repair (-\$16 billion) and the new program for higher ed facilities construction (-\$3.5 billion). This new program would have allocated 1% for BIE schools and outlying areas and 2% for impact aid. Explain how this provision would have helped your community and how school construction projects will create new jobs in your community, stimulate the economy, and be completed within 24 months. Urge the Senator and his/her staff to put back school construction funding back into the stimulus bill **by receding to the House version of the bill**. Ask the Member/staff that, if this funding is not contained in the final version of the stimulus package, then include this funding in the future appropriations bills (FY 2009 and FY 2010).
- **Head Start/Early Head Start:** Request information about why the Senate eliminated \$1 billion from Head Start and Early Head Start. Explain how this provision would have helped your community and how it would have been a critical investment in your children. Urge the Senator and his/her staff to put the \$1 billion back into the final version of the bill **by receding to the House version of the bill**. Ask the member/staff that, if this funding is not contained in the final version of the stimulus package, then include increases for Head Start and Early Head Start funding in future appropriations bills (FY 2009 and FY 2010).

- **Title I of NCLB:** Urge increased funding for Title I (Education for the Disadvantaged) in No Child Left Behind in the final version of the bill. The Senate agreed to a \$600 million cut from its Senate mark up amount. Explain how this provision would help your schools and students achieve academic success. Urge the Senator and his/her staff to put the \$600 million back into the final version of the bill **by receding to the House version of the bill**. Ask the member/staff that, if this funding is not contained in the final version of the stimulus package, then include increases for Title I funding in future appropriations bills (FY 2009 and FY 2010).

TALKING POINTS WITH THE HOUSE – (WE WANT HOUSE TO RETAIN ITS VERSION IN CONFERENCE)

- Express strong support for a stimulus package that funds education.
- Thank Members and their staff for working to improve public works and infrastructure in your communities (such as BIE school construction, IRR roads, Indian housing under NAHASDA, IHS facilities construction and sanitation).
- **School Modernization:** The House bill contains \$14 million for a new school modernization and repair program and \$6 billion for a new higher education modernization program. The new program allocated 1% for BIE schools and outlying areas. Request that the House hold strong on this provision in conference and request that the House ask the Senate to recede to the House version of the bill in conference. The Senate eliminated the new program on new K-12 school construction and repair (-\$16 billion) and the new program for higher ed facilities construction (-\$3.5 billion). Explain how this provision will help your community and how school construction projects will create new jobs in your community, stimulate the economy, and be completed within 24 months. Also, request that the House school modernization provision allow for new construction. Right now, it is limited to modernization and repair. Lastly, request a 2% allocation for impact aid.
- **Head Start/Early Head Start:** The House bill contains \$2.1 billion for Head Start and Early Head Start. Explain how this provision will help your community and how it will be a critical long term investment in your children. Request that the House hold strong on this provision in conference and request that the House ask the Senate to recede to the House version of the bill in conference.
- **Title I of NCLB:** The House bill contains \$11 billion for Title I (Education for the Disadvantaged) under No Child Left Behind. Explain how this provision will help your schools and your students achieve academic success. The Senate version of the bill contains \$600 million less than the House. Request that the House hold strong on this provision in conference and request that the House ask the Senate to recede to the House version of the bill in conference.