



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA

MAYOR

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S Senate
331 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S Senate
112 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C 20510

The Honorable Scott Peters
U.S House of Representatives
1201 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C 20515

The Honorable Juan Vargas
U.S House of Representatives
2334 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C 20515

The Honorable Sara Jacobs
U.S House of Representatives
1314 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C 20515

The Honorable Mike Levin
U.S House of Representatives
2352 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C 20515

The Honorable Darrell Issa
U.S House of Representatives
2108 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C 20515

Dear Senators Feinstein and Padilla and Congressmembers Peters, Vargas, Jacobs, Levin, and Issa,

On behalf of the City of San Diego I am writing to express our strong support for a legislative fix to the federal Impact Aid program. As you know, the Impact Aid program recognizes the unique challenges facing school districts serving military connected children by providing additional funding to help meet the educational and supportive needs of children of members of the uniformed services.

Unfortunately, the Impact Aid program has not been fully funded since 1969 and as a result, school districts, like San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD), do not receive the full funding for which they qualify. According to NAFIS, in Fiscal Year 2020, SDUSD received approximately \$7.9 million in Impact Aid Basic Support payments. If fully funded, SDUSD would have received over \$49 million in crucial funds. This inadequate funding is further exacerbated by declining student enrollment in SDUSD's general student population, which will lower the amount of funding it receives under the Impact Aid program.

Federal law holds that large school districts with high enrollments of military-connected children, such as SDUSD, face unique challenges and should be compensated with additional funding. Under this law, school districts receive a 35% increase to their Impact Aid Basic Support payment if they have a total average daily attendance (ADA) of 100,000 students or more, and serve more than 5,000 federally connected children, including children whose parents are members of the uniformed services. SDUSD has met these criteria and has qualified for the additional 35% in funding for many years. This decrease in payment, coupled with inadequate federal funding for Impact Aid overall, leaves SDUSD in the precarious position of meeting the educational needs of its military connected children without sufficient federal support.

The City supports lowering the ADA threshold from 100,000 to 85,000 to ensure that SDUSD can continue to provide critical services to students and military families. We appreciate your support of this change and if you have questions pertaining to this letter please reach out to my Deputy Director of Government Affairs, Walt Bishop, at wbishop@saniego.gov. As always, thank you for your leadership and all you do for San Diego.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Gloria". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Todd" and last name "Gloria" clearly distinguishable.

TODD GLORIA
Mayor
City of San Diego