



National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

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January 17, 2007

The Honorable Mark Kirk
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Kirk:

As the 110th Congress begins I wish to again compliment you for your steadfast support for the Impact Aid Program. Perseverance is a virtue that consistently is the difference between success and failure. Your reintroduction of the "Government Reservation Accelerated Development for Education Act" (Grade "A" Bill) is a testament to your belief that the Impact Aid Program should be an entitlement allowing all federally connected school districts to be funded at the level envisioned in the Impact Aid law as passed in 1950.

In 1950 Congress recognized the financial burden that a federal activity brings to a community in particular to a public school district. The obligation that is inherent in the statute to provide these districts a federal payment in lieu of the financial burden they carry is a commitment that should be fulfilled on an annual basis. The last time this commitment was met in full was 1969. Since that time a majority of federally connected school districts continue to do their best to provide an educational program, but do so without the full financial support of the federal government as envisioned by Congress fifty seven years ago.

The legislation that you have introduced and will again introduce in the 110th Congress simply carries out the obligation that was a part of the law when it was passed in 1950. The additional funding necessary to fully fund the Impact Aid Program (Section 8002 and Section 8003) is less than \$2 billion. Impact Aid is facing a major change in its demographics as more military dependent children enter the program. The Department of Defense indicates that over 70,000 military personnel are to return to the United States from basis overseas – mostly Europe and Asia over the next four years. Unless the Impact Aid Program is recognized by both Congress and the Administration as a program in need, Impact Aid payments will see drastic reductions. The only way to guarantee that all federally connected school districts can meet the challenges of No Child Left Behind is to insure that they receive a payment that can be depended on and at a level that covers

The NAFIS Family

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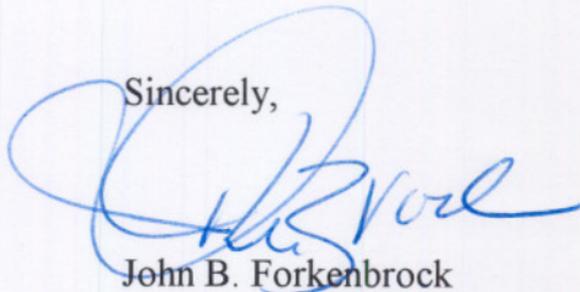
Section 8002 Districts
*Federal Property
Districts*

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the cost of what the 81st Congress considered to be a defined federal obligation. That can only happen when and if the Impact Aid Program is put into entitlement status. Your bill would do just that.

On behalf of all 1,400 federally connected school districts, I wish to thank you for your persistence and your support. Please let me know if there is anything that we can do to help move your effort along.

Sincerely,



John B. Forkenbrock
Executive Director