

December 2, 2011

PASS the FIX AMERICA'S SCHOOLS ACT, S. 1597

Dear Senator:

The following 173 organizations are writing to support the Fix America's Schools Today (FAST) Act, S.1597. Modernizing schools and community colleges in local communities will create better learning environments for students and generate much needed jobs. The FAST Act will invest resources to repair, renovate and modernize America's schools and community colleges while stimulating and creating some 300,000 jobs. Much needed local jobs will be generated in the construction industry among suppliers, ranging from architects and engineers to electrical, plumbing and roofing contractors and other construction workers who modernize, renovate and repair schools.

The Fix America's School's Act will provide grants to states and local communities helping local communities provide modern, more energy efficient, greener and better schools and community colleges, improving the learning environment for students and enhancing the workplace for students, teachers and staff. School and community college renovation and repair projects will generate local jobs as modern schools advance student achievement in urban, rural and suburban communities in every state.

Our organizations support the FAST Act, as a jobs and infrastructure initiative which can build on the successful Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) program providing financing for the construction, rehabilitation, and repair of public school facilities. School districts in forty-nine states are using QSCBs to build and renovate more technologically and energy efficient 21st Century schools. The local need is demonstrated by the demand and use in 2010 and 2011 of Qualified School Construction Bonds which financed \$10.4 billion in school construction and modernization projects generating jobs in communities across the country.

The FAST grant program is critical as a national investment to address the \$270 billion in unmet school repair and deferred-maintenance projects in local communities in every state. Public support for school modernization is reflected in a recent United Technologies/*National Journal* Congressional Connection Poll that found 84 percent of voters said that it was very important or somewhat important for Congress to reach agreement by the end of this year on "new federal spending to create jobs by rehabilitating public schools and mass transit, and preventing layoffs of teachers, police, and other first responders."

Teachers can better assist students to learn, achieve and succeed in high performing, healthy, sustainable and technologically advanced elementary, secondary and community college facilities. Modern energy efficient schools and community colleges are helping local communities increase opportunities for all students to develop the educational skills necessary to achieve and succeed in the 21st century workforce.

We urge you to vote for the FAST Act when it is considered by the Senate to assist the efforts of states and local communities to provide the high performing, healthy, sustainable and technologically advanced schools our students need to succeed in the 21st century. Enhancing our country's school and community college facilities is an investment which must be among our nation's priorities.

Sincerely,

1. 21st Century School Fund
2. ACLU of Maryland, Education Reform Project
3. AEC Science & Technology and Ecobuild America
4. AFL-CIO
5. African American Health Alliance
6. Alliance for Leadership and Interconnection
7. Alliance for Quality Education
8. American Association of Classified School Employees
9. American Association of Community Colleges
10. American Association of School Administrators
11. American Association of University Women (AAUW)
12. American Federation of School Administrators
13. American Federation of State, County, & Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
14. American Federation of Teachers
15. American Institute of Architects
16. American Library Association
17. American School Counselor Association
18. American Society of Interior Designers
19. American Society of Landscape Architects
20. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
21. Arizona Education Association
22. Arkansas Education Association
23. Association for Career and Technical Education
24. Association of Community College Trustees
25. Association of Education Service Agencies
26. Association of Energy Engineers
27. Association of School Business Officials International
28. BlueGreen Alliance
29. Building and Construction Trades Dept., AFL-CIO
30. California Teachers Association
31. Californians for School Facilities
32. Campaign for America's Future
33. Center for Cities and Schools
34. Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
35. Children's Defense Fund
36. Citizen Action of New York
37. Citizen Action of Wisconsin

38. Citizen Action/Illinois
39. Coalition for Community Schools
40. Coalition on Human Needs
41. Colorado Education Association
42. Committee for Education Funding
43. Connecticut Citizen Action Group
44. Connecticut Education Association
45. Consortium for School Networking
46. Council for Exceptional Children
47. Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI)
48. Council of the Great City Schools
49. Courage Campaign
50. Dēmos
51. Earth Day Network
52. Easter Seals
53. Education Law Center
54. Education Minnesota
55. Empire State Consumer Project
56. Every Child Matters Education Fund
57. FED ED
58. First Focus Campaign for Children
59. Florida Consumer Action Network
60. Florida Education Association
61. Georgia Association of Educators
62. Georgia Rural Urban Summit
63. Hawaii State Teachers Association
64. Healthy Schools Network
65. Idaho Education Association
66. Illinois Education Association
67. Indiana State Teachers Association
68. International Brotherhood of Teamsters
69. International Society for Technology in Education
70. International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
71. International Union of Operating Engineers
72. International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America
73. Iowa Citizen Action Network
74. Iowa State Education Association
75. Jewish Council for Public Affairs
76. Johnson Controls
77. Kansas National Education Association
78. Kentucky Education Association
79. Learning Disabilities Association of America
80. Louisiana Association Of Educators
81. Magnet Schools of America
82. Maine Parent Teacher Association

83. Maine People's Alliance
84. Maryland Children's Environmental Health Coalition (MD CEHC)
85. Maryland State Education Association
86. Massachusetts Teachers Association
87. MassCOSH
88. Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA)
89. Michigan Association of School Boards
90. Michigan Citizen Action
91. Michigan Education Association
92. Michigan's Children
93. Middle Cities Education Association (Michigan)
94. Mississippi Association of Educators
95. Missouri National Education Association
96. Missouri Progressive Vote Coalition
97. NAACP
98. National Association of Elementary School Principals
99. National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
100. National Association of School Psychologists
101. National Association of Secondary School Principals
102. National Association of State Boards of Education
103. National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium
104. National Association of State Directors of Special Education
105. National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)
106. National Council of Jewish Women
107. National Education Association
108. National Employment Law Project
109. National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC)
110. National Institute of Building Sciences
111. National Parent Teacher Association
112. National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition
113. National Rural Education Association
114. National School Boards Association
115. National Superintendents Roundtable
116. National Wildlife Federation
117. National Women's Law Center
118. NEA-Alaska
119. NEA-New Mexico
120. Nebraska State Education Association
121. NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
122. Nevada State Education Association
123. New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Action
124. New Jersey Citizen Action
125. New Jersey Education Association
126. New Mexico Voices for Children
127. New Orleans School Facility Project
128. New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

129. New York State United Teachers
130. North Carolina Association of Educators
131. Ocean State Action
132. Ohio Association of Community Colleges
133. Ohio Education Association
134. Ohio Federation of Teachers
135. Ohio School Boards Association
136. Oregon Action
137. Oregon Education Association
138. Organizations Concerned About Rural Education
139. Penn Action
140. Pennsylvania State Education Association
141. Progressive Maryland
142. ProgressOhio
143. Public Advocates Inc.
144. Public Education Network
145. Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition
146. Rebuild America's Schools Coalition
147. School Equity Caucus (Michigan)
148. School Social Work Association of America
149. Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
150. Sheet Metal Workers' International Association
151. Teamsters Union
152. Tennessee Citizen Action
153. Tennessee Education Association
154. TESOL International Association
155. Texas State Teachers Association
156. The Columbus Education Association (Ohio)
157. The Forum for Education and Democracy
158. United Action for Idaho
159. US Green Building Council
160. USAction
161. Virginia Education Association
162. Virginia Organizing
163. Voices for America's Children
164. Voices for Illinois Children
165. Washington Community Action Network
166. Washington Education Association
167. Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency, Wayne County Michigan
168. West Virginia Citizen Action Group
169. West Virginia Education Association
170. Wider Opportunities for Women
171. Window and Door Manufacturers Association
172. Wyoming Education Association
173. Young Invincibles