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U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 31, 2023

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of AASA, The School Superintendents Association, representing the nation's 10,000 public school superintendents and the students they serve, we write to express our support for Congressional action to raise the debt ceiling.

We understand the importance of fiscal restraint and responsibility and mindful accountability around debt and deficit. We do not support, however, conflating these conversations with the necessary duty of raising of America's debt ceiling and believe it should be lifted cleanly and immediately. While our official preference is for a clean debt ceiling vote, we know that policy is not derived in a vacuum, and we commend Congressional and White House leaders for stepping up to the plate to avoid breaching the debt ceiling.

We support the proposal for providing the Treasury Department with borrowing authority for two years. Under the proposed deal, non-defense discretionary funding—including education—would see minimal cuts in federal fiscal year 2024 (FY24) and FY25 funding levels with cuts totaling one percent. We support the role of the Congress in having the tough conversations that come with an annual budget and appropriations process; we urge the full appropriations committee to engage in bipartisan, bicameral negotiations that respect the broad programs funded, to ensure that final funding levels are tailored and reasonable, not blunt and careless, and to protect federal education flagship programs—like Title I and IDEA—from deep or disproportionate cuts.

We urge Congress to act expediently to pass the Bipartisan Budget Agreement and to ensure the nation does not breach its debt ceiling.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Noelle Ellerson Ng". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Noelle Ellerson Ng
Associate Executive Director, Advocacy & Governance
AASA, The School Superintendents Association

