

[Insert Date]

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States of America  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel  
Acting Chairwoman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20054

To Our Federal Leaders:

COVID-19 did not create the Homework Gap. However, because of COVID-19, we must accelerate efforts to close it. We call on Congress to provide at least \$7.6 billion for the E-Rate program and we call on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to modernize the E-Rate program and allow it to support remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Data from 2018 shows that [one in three](#) Black, Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native households did not have high-speed home internet. Some progress has been made over the past several months but this progress is largely short term and still leaves [12 million](#) K–12 students underconnected. Unfortunately, the E-Rate program has received no funding to address the Homework Gap despite the fact that millions of children are receiving their education online. We urge Congress to provide at least \$7.6 billion for the E-Rate program to ensure students have the high-speed internet access and connected devices needed to effectively participate in remote learning during the pandemic.

In addition, we call upon the FCC to allow the E-Rate program to support remote learning during the pandemic. The Telecommunications Act calls upon the FCC to enhance the ability of libraries and elementary and secondary school classrooms to access advanced telecommunications services. As you are aware, classrooms across the country are now online. High-speed internet access and connected devices are as essential to learning today as pencils and paper. We urge you to take immediate and aggressive action so students can attend class online while traditional instruction is disrupted due to COVID-19.

At this unprecedented time in our nation's history, the federal government can make a dramatic impact on educational equity for millions of students. The coronavirus is impacting nearly every facet of American life. With your leadership, we can mitigate this disruption by providing the nation's students the education they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

CC: U.S. House of Representatives  
U.S. Senate