

CONOR LAMB

17TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE
& TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
& INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3818

April 29, 2021

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1224 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2301

MT. LEBANON OFFICE
504 WASHINGTON ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15228
(412) 344-5583

BEAVER COUNTY OFFICE
3468 BRODHEAD ROAD, SUITE #1
MONACA, PA 15061
(724) 206-4860

PENN HILLS OFFICE
11 DUFF ROAD, SUITE A3
PITTSBURGH, PA 15235
(412) 871-2060

Dear PA-17 School Boards, Superintendents, Principals, and School Leaders:

Thank you for the work you have done to support the students of Pennsylvania's 17th Congressional district throughout COVID-19. Under normal circumstances you have a difficult but vital job, and the pandemic created myriad challenges for your schools.

Our students have been at the top of my mind throughout this past year. In Washington I have advocated for funding streams to help the transition to online learning in the midst of the pandemic and to help our schools get students back to the classroom. I voted on three separate pieces of legislation, the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136), the Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 116-260), and most recently, the American Rescue Plan Act (Public Law 117-2) to help meet this challenge. The first two bills, the CARES Act and Consolidated Appropriations Act provided \$13.5 billion and \$54.3 billion through the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief (ESSER) Fund. The recently enacted American Rescue Plan provides \$122.7 billion for the ESSER Fund.

The American Rescue Plan was specifically designed by Congress to help our students overcome learning loss incurred over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania received \$4.9 billion from this bill for schools, and the allocations for all school districts in the Commonwealth are available at the Pennsylvania Department of Education website.¹ Under the law, schools are required to use at least 20 percent of the funds they receive to address lost learning time for students through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs. The remaining 80 percent of funds can be determined by local education needs and priorities, with a full list of eligible activities available at the United States Department of Education website.²

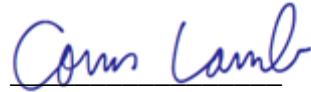
Nothing is more important right now than ensuring our students are caught up and supported. Accordingly, I write to request that you consider using the federal funds available to you to ensure any summer learning or other programming designed to address learning loss is free and accessible to every student in your district. The ability to pay for learning programs should not be a barrier to any of our students or families.

¹<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/CARESAct/March2021/Pages/Allocations.aspx>

²<https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-education-announces-american-rescue-plan-funds-all-50-states-puerto-rico-and-district-columbia-help-schools-reopen>

I will continue to advocate for our schools, students, and educators in Congress. Thank you again for your service to the students and families of Pennsylvania's 17th Congressional district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Conor Lamb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Conor Lamb
Member of Congress