Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden:

We are witnessing how fear and anxiety about the coronavirus can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions for our constituents, especially children. The National Institute of Mental Health reports that one in five youth already experience some type of mental health disorder that can cause significant challenges at home, school, and their community. Yet, prior to this public health emergency, only 10 percent of children and adolescents ages 3 to 17-years-old received any treatment or counseling from a mental health professional. That is why we strongly encourage you to include H.R. 1109, the Mental Health Services for Students Act, in the next coronavirus package.

The bill would provide $200 million in competitive grants for public schools across the country to partner with local mental health professionals to establish comprehensive mental health services for students. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, testified in May before the Senate on the prospect of reopening school buildings and said, “We don’t know everything about this virus, and we really better be very careful, particularly when it comes to children”. While schools work to navigate this pandemic, it is also important that we provide them with the resources to create a mental health plan to reach their students during this stressful time.

H.R. 1109 is based on the successful Youth Suicide Prevention Program in Los Angeles County and would provide grant funding for public schools to ensure the long-term availability of mental health services for students. Regular classes will eventually resume and according to the CDC, children may feel upset or have other strong emotions after an emergency. How a child reacts can vary depending on their age, previous experiences, and how that child typically copes with stress.
The Heroes Act does provide $100 Million for Project AWARE to identify students and connect them with mental health services and $90 billion in additional grants for states to support schools, which could be used for counseling, mental health services, and family engagement efforts. However, the effects of this pandemic will not easily disappear. We need to ensure the long-term availability of mental health services for students, which H.R. 1109 would accomplish.

H.R. 1109 has 131 bipartisan co-sponsors and has the support of 60+ mental health organizations, universities, local governments and teacher unions. It is now time to act on this bill, which has had broad support for decades.

We would truly appreciate your continued commitment to mental health by including H.R. 1109 the Mental Health Services for Students Act in any future coronavirus stimulus packages.

Sincerely,

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

John Katko
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Member of Congress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan</td>
<td>Tim Ryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doris Matsui</td>
<td>Filemon Vela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eddie Bernice Johnson</td>
<td>Jamie Raskin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Castor</td>
<td>Josh Harder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruben Gallego</td>
<td>James P. McGovern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicente Gonzalez</td>
<td>Jahana Hayes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwen Moore</td>
<td>Linda T. Sánchez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobby L. Rush</td>
<td>Juan Vargas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcee L. Hastings</td>
<td>Joseph D. Morelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleanor Holmes Norton</td>
<td>Judy Chu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derek Kilmer</td>
<td>Steve Cohen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David N. Cicilline</td>
<td>Mark DeSaulnier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Trone</td>
<td>Norma J. Torres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susie Lee</td>
<td>Madeleine Dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deb Haaland</td>
<td>Emanuel Cleaver, II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

Xochitl Torres Small  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

Abby Finkenauer  
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

Katie Porter  
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress