

# Session #3: Prospects for Federal PK12 Facility Funding

**Objective:** Become knowledgeable about federal facilities policy



## Moderator

Rob Olsen, Infrastructure Consultant  
at the Iowa Department of Education

## Panel



Ally Bernstein-Talcott,  
Principal, Step Up Advocacy



Kevin Sullivan, Government  
Relations Advisor, 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
School Fund



Stephen Ward, Principal,  
VHS Strategies

# School Infrastructure Legislation Introduced in 116th Congress

## **RRASA in HR2 (Chairman Scott/Sen. Reed RASA bill in Pelosi's Moving Forward Infra Package)**

- \$100 billion in grants, \$20 billion over 5 years
- \$30 billion in bonds

## **Economic Justice Act (Schumer's RJ Bill)**

- \$35 billion over 3 years as down payment on RASA

## **Save Education Jobs Act (Education & Labor Committee Chairman Scott)**

- \$261 billion to states and school districts over 10 years, for educators, paraprofessionals, social workers, school psychologists, nurses, bus drivers, maintenance workers, and more.

## **COVID-19 Relief Bill**

- RRASA + \$10 billion for emergency school facilities repairs



# Federal Funding: FY21 & COVID-19 Relief

## Fiscal Year 21 Funding

- **Deadline:** Dec 11, but 1 week CR extension through Dec 18
- **Omnibus:** Likely to pass new funding levels for most bills, LHHS-Ed might be the “continuing resolution” (CR) part of the CRomnibus

## COVID-19 Relief (\$10 billion for emergency school facilities)

- Moderate Problem Solvers Caucus introduced \$908 billion COVID-19 package that has served as the base for negotiations on COVID-19 relief
- Pelosi/Schumer have backed it, McConnell support still unclear
- \$82 billion for education, but no details on K-12, higher-ed, or facilities funding breakdowns

# New Administration

12:15 PM -1:00 ET

- **Biden Campaign Promise: \$100 billion for school infrastructure**
  - 2 mentions in recent speeches; supports Community Schools
- **Biden Transition Team - Dept of Education**
  - BASIC letter to Biden transition team on reopening schools and RASA
  - Recommendation to Biden transition team to create a new office in Dept of Education to help reopen schools and implement RASA should it become law
  - Dept of Ed has no real history on school facilities except Riley's years (1990's) modernization legislation, NCEF; Design Summit, Later charter facilities program & Green Schools Program
- **New Secretary of Education**
  - Biden promised to appoint a new Secretary with a teacher background during campaign
  - Dr. Jill Biden - community college teacher, NEA member, continuing to teach

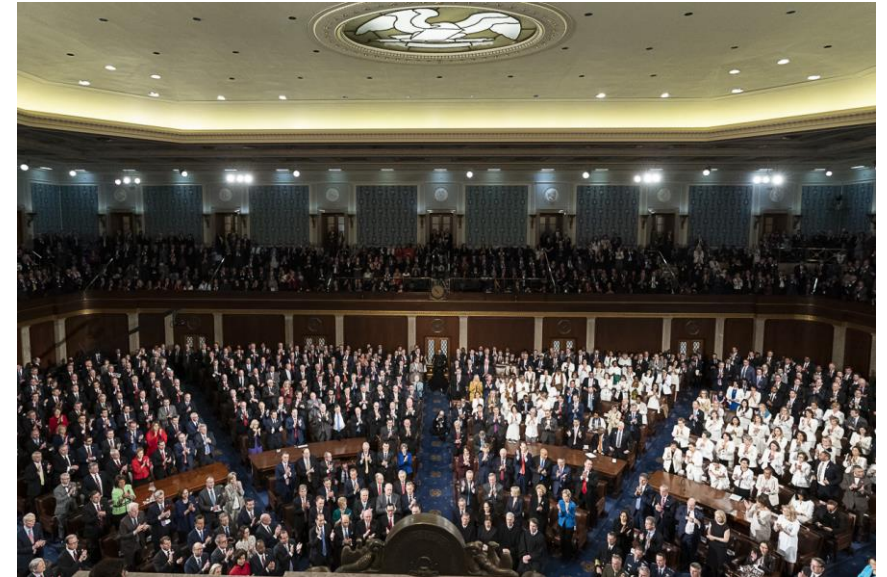
# 117th Congress: U.S. House of Representatives

House: 222 Democrats to 211 Republicans (two races still to be determined).

Leadership of both parties remains the same; even with a slimmer margin, Democrats will still be able to pass most priority legislation

Key Committee Democrats stay the same; one change among Republicans

Ed and Labor	Scott (D-VA) / Virginia Foxx (R-VA)
Ways and Means	Neal (D-MA) / Brady (R-TX)
Trans and Infrastr.	DeFazio (D-OR) / <b>Graves (R-MO)</b>



# 117th Congress: U.S. Senate

48 Democrats and Independents to 50 Republicans; two Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> runoff in Georgia will determine Senate control and prospects for Dem priorities

Leadership of both parties remains the same; regardless of who controls, the close margin will require bi-partisan votes for any package

Key Committee Democrats stay the same; all Republicans are new

HELP Murray (D-WA) / Burr (R-NC) or Paul (R-KY)

Finance Wyden (D-OR) / Crapo (R-ID)

EPW Carper (D-DE) / Capito (R-WV)

# Federal Advocacy Priorities in the 117th

**Priorities 1, 2, 3:** Advocate for a major multi-year investment in School Buildings in an Infrastructure bill

- RASA or a comparably scaled investment -- \$100 Billion or more

1. **New Member Education:** Educate new members Congress on the need for a federal investment in public school facilities
2. **Build Republican Champions:** Strong set of Ds in House & Senate, but not many Rs convinced schools belong in the infrastructure package
3. **Become a Trusted Source:** Make connections and act as a resource on school facilities with Members of Congress