

**From:** [Shoudy, Mike](#)  
**To:** [Rice, Michael \(MDE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Update on Congressional COVID Negotiations  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 8:50:51 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

**CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to [abuse@michigan.gov](mailto:abuse@michigan.gov)**

Hi Michael. Just wanted to flag the highlighted paragraph below from the NEA lobbyists. Thanks

Michael M. Shoudy, Esq (Pronouns: He/Him/His)  
Executive Director  
Michigan Education Association  
1350 Kendale Blvd., PO Box 2573  
East Lansing, MI 48826-2573  
517-332-6551 ext. 5510 (phone)  
517-337-5587 (fax)

NOTICE: This email and any attachments are CONFIDENTIAL and may be protected by one or more legal privileges. It is intended solely for the use of the intended addressee. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure, copying or distribution of this email is UNAUTHORIZED. Nothing in this message is intended to constitute an electronic signature unless a specific statement to the contrary is included in this message. If you have received this email in error, please immediately notify the sender by calling (517) 332-6551, ext 5510 and delete this email from your computer.



*Champions for Education*

---

**From:** Kusler, Mary [NEA-CAO] <[mkusler@nea.org](mailto:mkusler@nea.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 5:31 PM  
**To:** State President Listserv ([state-presidents@list.nea.org](mailto:state-presidents@list.nea.org)) <[state-presidents@list.nea.org](mailto:state-presidents@list.nea.org)>; State Exec Listserv ([state-executive-directors@list.nea.org](mailto:state-executive-directors@list.nea.org)) <[state-executive-directors@list.nea.org](mailto:state-executive-directors@list.nea.org)>; State-GR-Directors [NEA] <[state-gr-directors@list.nea.org](mailto:state-gr-directors@list.nea.org)>  
**Subject:** Update on Congressional COVID Negotiations

Hi everyone,

COVID talks between the Trump administration and democratic leadership fell apart on Friday,

August 7<sup>th</sup> with no further talks scheduled at this point. It appears the impasse is unresolvable for the near term, though many rumors abound. We need to keep the pressure on!!!

It is important to note that education has been a big part of the conversation. Both sides know how important shoring up schools and universities are to families and to reopening the economy.

Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Schumer were very strong on our behalf. According to education staff, though they tried to reduce their ask of the \$3.4 billion from the HEROES Act to closer to \$2 billion, but the money for education never went down.

This weekend, Trump signed some executive orders and memoranda on suspending the payroll tax, and extending some portion of federal unemployment payments, the eviction moratorium and student loan payments. Their reach and legality is murky, at best. Specifically:

- For the payroll tax, Trump did not cancel payroll taxes, he's only putting off payments that will saddle families with large payments later on.
- Unemployment insurance payments were decreased from \$600 to \$300 from the federal government and \$100 from the states who are already struggling with their budgets.
- The eviction memorandum actually fails to extend the eviction moratorium, let alone help for people who have fallen behind on their rent. There's no plan to help people get out from under months of payments.
- The student loan memorandum extends the suspension of loan payment and interest through the end of the year, which is less than what was in the House HEROES Act (through September 2021) and does not extend to commercially held or Perkins loans.

Let us be clear—the impasse lies at the feet of Senate Majority Leader McConnell and President Trump. They still have yet to accept and grasp the reality and gravity of the crisis and what is truly needed to address it. Students, educators and the country will continue to suffer as a result of their dereliction of duty. Please know that we are continuing to stay in very close contact with Democratic leadership and their staff. They are not giving up and want us to continue the drumbeat.

We have heard that during negotiations and even since then, Treasury Secretary Mnuchin has been reaching out to states asking about per pupil cost estimates for COVID. If you are in touch with any state departments of education or districts, **please reinforce that any number they provide should reflect the COVID cost in addition to the revenue shortfall.** We cannot just talk about the increased cost, but must look at the totality of the services. Many states and districts continue to face significant revenue shortfalls. We will continue making the case for what is needed, and we will remember in November who stood with educators and students and who did not.

We have been asked to continue to ask for and build the case for \$175 billion for public education. We need to continue to speak to the press. We need to focus on what campuses, districts and schools are facing. The main thing is to NOT GO SILENT.

For those of you who have already sent letters to your Senators, we thank you. As you do them, please continue to share them with us. We are happy to assist in any way.

We appreciate the partnership and will keep the pressure on.

Mary and Marc

Mary Kusler  
Senior Director, Center for Advocacy, NEA  
202-822-7031 work  
703-732-8996 cell

---

You are currently subscribed to state-executive-directors as: [mshoudy@mea.org](mailto:mshoudy@mea.org).