



REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

A National Coalition

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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1440 N Street, NW
Suite 1016
Washington, DC 20005

PHONE 202-462-5911
FAX 202-986-4569

E-MAIL
RebuildAmericasSchools@
comcast.net

National Parent Teacher Association □ Council of The Great City Schools □ National Education Association
American Federation of Teachers □ American Association of School Administrators □ National School Boards Association
National Association of Elementary School Principals □ National Association of Secondary School Principals
NAACP □ National Association of Federally Impacted Schools □ American Institute of Architects
Organizations Concerned About Rural Education □ National Rural Education Association
Californians for School Facilities

April 28, 2008

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
House Education and Labor Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

As schools across the nation strive to meet the standards set forth in the No Child Left Behind Act, Rebuild America's Schools is writing to express our support for the **21st Century High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (H.R. 3021) and the Loeb sack-Kildee Education and Labor Committee substitute**. We appreciate your cosponsorship with Representatives Chandler and Kildee and we are urging other members of the House Education and Labor Committee to cosponsor and pass this much needed legislation. School facilities are an integral part of raising student performance. The modern and safe schools of the 21st Century High Performing Public School Facilities Act will help local communities increase the opportunity for all students to meet the achievement objectives of No Child Left Behind and to develop the educational skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century workforce. Modern schools will also benefit student and staff health and help develop energy efficiency.

The demands of today's educational programs and services are overwhelming the structural capacity of the average school in America built almost fifty years ago. Many urban and rural schools were built much earlier than the 1960's. Growing communities across our country cannot build schools fast enough to accommodate increasing student populations. Too many of America's children go to school in overcrowded buildings with leaky roofs, faulty electrical systems, and outdated technology, all of which compromises their ability to achieve, succeed and build the educational foundations necessary for the workforce of the 21st century.

The legislation will assist states in meeting the school facility needs of local communities by providing resources to build, repair, renovate and modernize America's schools. Equally important, its enactment will stimulate the creation of more than 100,000 new jobs in construction related services.

The 21st Century High Performing Public School Facilities Act and the Loeb sack-Kildee Committee substitute will assist states and local communities in meeting these staggering needs through federal grants to local school districts for energy efficient school modernization and construction projects nationwide. The Federal Government would provide \$6.4 billion in grants to states and local school districts at a time when significant fiscal relief for local school districts is needed. The federal grants will help states and communities stretch their limited resources to pay for additional school facility projects and essential education programs.

The House Education and Labor Committee's bill creates a program that provides federal support for the renovation, repair and building of schools, while leaving decision making about the schools at the local level. The Act provides a federal investment to help renovate, repair and modernize thousands of public schools. School districts in every state have school renovation and repair projects that can be underway very quickly if federal financial resources are available to help underwrite the project costs.

The legislation will provide federal funding to support the local commitments to undertake projects to renovate and repair schools. School construction projects will generate thousands of jobs in the construction industry, and among the many suppliers, ranging from architects and engineers to roofing contractors and other workers, who design and build our nation's schools.

Rebuild America's Schools asks for your support for **The 21st Century High Performing Public School Facilities Act and the Loeb sack-Kildee Education and Labor Committee substitute**. Modern, more efficient and better schools will improve the learning environment for students, enhance the workplace for students, teachers and school administrators and most importantly they will advance student achievement in urban, rural and suburban communities in every state.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Canavan, Chair