

ACTION ALERT

Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity
Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

August 13, 2020

ISSUE: Senate COVID-19 Relief Funding

As legislation for new COVID-19 relief funding stalls in the Senate, important funding for education, with schools already or soon to open, is stalled as well. As a Congregation with a 160-year commitment to education it is important for us to insist that the Senate funding bill include adequate funds to address the effects of COVID-19 on educational institutions. The Executive Orders signed by President Trump do not include any funding for education.

ACTION: Call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected to your Senators' offices. Mention that you are a Sister of Charity/Seton Associate and that the Congregation has a long history of commitment to education and sponsors several education institutions including Saint Elizabeth University. Request that COVID-19 funding include the following:

1. A funding level of \$46.6 billion for institutions and students to address increased student financial need and increased institutional costs and revenue losses. The funding should be distributed to institutions based on their total number of Full Time Equivalent students, not headcount, and funds should not be tied to an institution's endowment.
2. More flexible and broadened rules on use of funds to cover tuition and all other elements of cost of attendance for a student and institutional losses and costs related to the pandemic.
3. A temporary, limited liability protection for institutions related to the pandemic if they are going to be able to reopen in a responsible manner that best serves their students' educational and health needs.

PRAYER:

Holy Wisdom, we praise you for creating us with minds capable of wonder, discovery, reflection, and action. Bless all those involved in the sacred work of education -students, teachers and other school workers, parents, administrators, members of school boards, and government officials. At this time of pandemic, full of fear and anxiety, give us your own wisdom to know how to continue to educate -effectively, safely, joyously. We pray in the name of Jesus the Teacher, your Wisdom made flesh. Amen.