

# Connecticut Education Association NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release  
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## **Education Community Praises Congresswoman Jahana Hayes' New Bill to Make Education a Top Priority**

CEA and NEA applaud Congresswoman Jahana Hayes' introduction of the Save Education Jobs Act of 2020. The legislation will ensure that the education of our nation's schoolchildren remains a top priority, now and in the future.

"Jahana proudly represents Connecticut residents and acts in the best interests of all her constituents," said CEA President Jeff Leake. "As a member of the Committee on Education and Labor, this former National Teacher of the Year is a strong voice and education champion for all of us, especially now, as the COVID-19 pandemic wreaks havoc across our country and specifically in our schools. The pandemic has caused increased trauma for our students and highlighted tremendous inequities in our schools. These profound changes and uncertainty point to the need for more supports, including teachers, social workers, and school psychologists, to address the social and emotional well-being of all students as they handle all the stresses of living during a pandemic. Our dedicated educators are working hard, adapting to fast-changing working conditions, coping with the struggles brought on by the pandemic, and continuing to support, engage, and connect with all their students. We applaud Jahana's efforts to pass legislation that supports educators and provides equitable, high-quality educational opportunities for all children in public schools."

"We have all been impacted by the pandemic, and what we do next will define not only our country but our commitment to what is truly important," said CEA Vice President Tom Nicholas. "That is why it's critical to pass the Save Education Jobs Act of 2020 and meet the educational needs of our students. Without it, the implications will be long-lasting and will further divide our country."

"Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, educators have been doing everything possible to support students and to partner with families and communities to ensure every student— regardless of race, ability, or ZIP code — has what they need to thrive," said Becky Pringle, president, National Education Association. "But the challenges facing public schools and colleges have been exacerbated: more than 835,000 educator jobs already have been lost, and many more layoffs are on the horizon as local and state governments find themselves falling off a fiscal cliff. These job losses have consequences; educator job losses dramatically and disproportionately affect our most vulnerable student populations who would lose that trusted guidance counselor, lifeline school nurse, or desperately needed custodian while being forced into ballooning class sizes that are both unsafe in a public health emergency and detrimental to student learning. If we are able to weather this storm, the federal government must provide tools and significant resources to save education jobs and reopen our school buildings and college campuses safely and equitably."

CEA and NEA thank Congresswoman Jahana Hayes, a proud union member and champion for public education, for her leadership in introducing the Save Education Jobs Act.

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The National Education Association is the nation's largest professional employee organization, representing 3 million elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty, education support professionals, school administrators, retired educators, and students preparing to become teachers.

The Connecticut Education Association is Connecticut's largest teachers' union, representing active, retired, and aspiring educators across the state.

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