



## School Social Work Association of America

### SSWAA ACTION ALERT Build Back Better Act

**BACKGROUND:** Congress continues to negotiate the Build Back Better Act, their major multi-trillion dollar social spending budget reconciliation package which includes funding for a wide range of key Democratic priorities such as climate change, labor and workforce development, Medicaid, higher education, and employment benefits. With narrow margins in the Senate, key provisions for children and families could be cut. SSWAA has reached out to Congress to ask for additional funding to help families across this country, but now we need you to take action as well. Please write your Congressional delegation and urge them to include funding for programs that benefit children and families and higher education affordability.

[LINK](#) to White House Build Back Better Framework / [LINK](#) to House Rules Bill Text

#### PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Higher education affordability:
  - Maximum Pell Grant award increase of \$550.
  - Expansion of federal financial aid to eligible students with DACA, TPS, and DED status.
  - Grant programs to help train new teachers and address the teacher shortage, with a specific focus on special education teachers.
  - Targeted funding for HBCUs, TCUs, HSIs, and MSIs.
- Free, universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds.
- \$10 billion for child nutrition programs, including expanded eligibility for free school meals and provision of Summer EBT benefits to eligible low-income children.
- Extension of the Child Tax Credit program into 2022.
- Affordable housing construction, rehabilitation, and improvement.

**TAKE ACTION:** CALL or EMAIL your Senators and Representatives. Find your Member of Congress and Senators at [www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member](http://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member). Each office will have a different policy for reaching them that will be on their website. You might be able to email them directly or copy and paste your letter into the form provided. **Tell Congress to act!**

#### HERE'S WHAT TO SAY:

[Title and Last Name]:

I am a school social worker in (city/county/school district) and a constituent. I am writing to request your support for education affordability, child nutrition, housing, and Child Tax Credit provisions in the Build Back Better Act.

Funding for these social safety net programs would help support our students and their families, providing them with much-needed stability. Higher education affordability will also provide more students with the ability to enter into high-need fields like school social work without being overburdened by student loans.

*[INSERT PERSONAL STORY from your district about why we need funding for the programs listed above, or how it would impact you and your students.]*

I encourage you to show your support for school social workers and the children and families we serve by voting in favor of these provisions in the final Build Back Better Act.

Thank you,

[Your Name]