



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 1, 2021

Dear Dr. Gaiter,

Few issues are as critical to our Nation's long-term success as education, and I thank you for reaching out to me. I have always believed that children are the kite strings that lift our national ambitions—the more that we do today to invest in students and the dedicated educators and school staff who support their growth, the stronger our country will be in the future.

As the proud husband of an educator who continues to teach at a community college, I have seen firsthand the dedication and selflessness of our Nation's educators, but I have also seen the challenges of our education system. Those challenges have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has placed an enormous strain on students and educators alike.

One of my most important goals after taking office was reopening our schools quickly and safely so that students could get back to the classroom to avoid further learning loss and isolation. My American Rescue Plan was critical to accomplishing this goal because it provided billions of dollars to help safely reopen our schools, stabilize state and local budgets, and support the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students and educators. I also prioritized vaccines for educators, supported COVID-19 testing in schools, and made sure that school leaders had the clear guidance they needed to reopen with confidence and safety.

There are a number of challenges in our education system that were with us long before the pandemic hit, including the crushing burden of debt that so many Americans carry while trying to earn a degree. On my first day in office, I extended the pause on federal student loan payments and collections while keeping the interest rate at zero percent. My Administration has already canceled billions of dollars in Americans' student debt, and we will continue to explore ways to ease that burden.

I know that there is much more we have to do. We must continue to address disparities in our education system that have persisted for far too long. We must

ensure that every child can benefit from a world-class education that prepares them to succeed in the 21st century economy. And we must give our dedicated educators the resources they need and the raises they deserve, address teacher shortages, and diversify the teacher pipeline. My Build Back Better agenda will do this and more. It will provide four additional years of free public education, including two years of universal preschool for every 3- and 4-year-old in the country, and two years of free community college. My proposals will also make substantial investment in upgrading our school infrastructure and technology and high-quality career and technical education.

Together, we are going to build our education system back better, and I appreciate your ideas and your interest in helping us get it done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Biden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

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