

**MICHAEL T. McCAUL**  
10TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE  
ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4310

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2001 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2401

AUSTIN OFFICE:  
3301 NORTHLAND DR., SUITE 212  
AUSTIN, TX 78731  
(512) 473-2357

BRENHAM OFFICE:  
2000 SOUTH MARKET, SUITE 303  
BRENHAM, TX 77833  
(979) 830-8497

TOMBALL OFFICE:  
990 VILLAGE SQUARE, SUITE B  
TOMBALL, TX 77375  
(281) 255-8372

KATY OFFICE:  
1773 WESTBOROUGH DRIVE, SUITE 223  
KATY, TX 77449  
(281) 398-1247

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Minority Leader  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

As we approach the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are also approaching the anniversary of many students not receiving in-person instruction. Vaccines must be prioritized for teachers and childcare workers across the nation to ensure our children can return to school and childcare services.

There is still \$59 billion in education funding from previous COVID-relief packages that remains unspent. Currently, Congress is debating an additional \$128 billion for education that is included in President Biden's \$1.9 trillion package. Rather than funding extraneous projects, these resources should be used to vaccinate teachers and childcare workers to get our children safely back into the classroom. The negative impact virtual-learning and childcare facility closures is far-reaching and must come to an end.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a massive hit to the number of women in the workforce—the lowest number seen since 1988.<sup>1</sup> Many hardworking women were

---

<sup>1</sup> "Women's Labor Force Participation Rate Hit a 33-YEAR Low in January, According to New Analysis," CNBC. February 9, 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/08/womens-labor-force-participation-rate-hit-33-year-low-in-january-2021.html>.

forced to quit their jobs or drastically decrease their hours to provide childcare and oversee their children's virtual schooling. We cannot allow this trend to continue—it is of vital importance to the equality of our workforce that schools and childcare services are permitted to re-open.

Virtual learning also negatively impacts the academic growth and mental health of our youth. In-person instruction helps foster academic motivation and social development among adolescents and critical resources for those in need. Research shows that students entering the Fall 2020 school year, entered at a math learning level far below what is typically seen for incoming school years.<sup>2</sup> This drop may be attributed to the disruption of in-person instruction and the challenges parents and guardians face with virtual learning. Additionally, 35 percent of children who receive mental health services receive these services exclusively from their school.<sup>3</sup> With the shuttering of schools nationwide, our country's most vulnerable are losing access to critical mental health resources.

The many challenges facing parents and students underscore the salient need for our nation's teachers and childcare workers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. For in-person instruction to resume nationwide, these frontline workers must feel safe and comfortable to provide their much-needed services. We must prioritize our teachers and childcare workers receive the vaccine in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress

---

<sup>2</sup> Kuhfeld, Megan, Jim Soland, Beth Tarasawa, Angela Johnson, Erik Ruzek, and Karyn Lewis. "How Is COVID-19 Affecting Student Learning?" Brookings. Brookings, December 3, 2020. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2020/12/03/how-is-covid-19-affecting-student-learning/>.

<sup>3</sup> "Zoom School's Mental Health Toll on Kids." American Psychological Association. American Psychological Association. Accessed March 2, 2021. <https://www.apa.org/news/apa/2020/10/online-learning-mental-health>.