

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 20, 2022

The Honorable Janet Yellen
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Kathleen B. Victorino
Acting Deputy Chief Compliance Officer
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 3134
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen:

As members of Arizona's Congressional delegation, we write to express our concern towards federal overreach directed at students, families, and educators. On January 14th, 2022, Acting Deputy Chief Compliance Officer Kathleen B. Victorino outlined two programs that would be subject to financial take backs based on the Biden Administration's perverse intimidation tactics. We are deeply troubled by the U.S. Department of Treasury's failed leadership and attack on our state's sovereignty.

Despite President Biden's declared success in overcoming the pandemic on July 4, 2021, this Administration continues to mount legal battles against creative and responsive state policies that it disagrees with. The programs subject to the most recent threats include a \$163 million grant for schools in compliance with existing state law, a \$10 million program that provides families with the flexibility necessary to meet the specific needs of their children, and possible future relief funds. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provided flexibility, and these programs are well within Arizona's scope to provide citizens and entities the resources they need.


Unlike other states and school districts that have received hundreds of millions of dollars in aid and still do not have children in classrooms, Arizonans understand the shortcomings of the one-size-fits-all approach and will continue to fight for children to be in the classroom. Parents deserve the right to make decisions they believe are in the best interest of their child's health and education, without federal interference at the local level. Furthermore, state law does not prevent children, educators, or other school officials from wearing masks if they personally choose to do so. Threatening to take funding away from a state that is designing and implementing innovative solutions to meet the unique needs of its residents is an abuse of federal authority and fails to make up for the lost education caused by this virus.

Given the impact that COVID-19 has already had on our education system and the mental health of young people, we urge the U.S. Department of Treasury to retract its January 14th communication threat against parents and students across the state of Arizona, and work with state officials to ensure schools continue to receive funding based on local needs. Thank you and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress