

INVEST IN OUR EDUCATORS

# STRONG ACT

**BUILD THE FUTURE STUDENT TO TEACHER PIPELINE**

## THE PROBLEM:

In addition to many being parents, some educators are part of the “sandwich generation” – tasked with caring for both their children and their elderly parents at the same time and often under the same roof. To make matters worse, as many as one in every four teachers have pre-existing health conditions that put them at a higher risk of serious illness should they contract COVID-19.

In a nationwide poll of educators, [the National Education Association \(NEA\) found](#) that 28 percent said the COVID-19 pandemic has made them more likely to retire early or leave the profession, a rate that could far worsen the nation’s shortage of qualified teachers.

Teachers are working harder than ever to make both remote and in-person learning effective, engaging, and equitable. Now, governments at all levels have the responsibility to build out the support systems available to teachers, especially those who need to take precautions to protect their health or that of their loved ones.

## THE SOLUTION:

- **College students and recent graduates create a strong future teacher pipeline by fast tracking college students with relevant degrees into the current teaching workforce to provide additional assistance and much needed back up for our valued educators.**
- **Allow undergraduate students enrolled in a Teacher Residency to enter into the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program, thus incentivizing prospective teachers with early access to loan forgiveness.**
- **Authorize \$600 million in funding to support Teacher Residencies and teacher preparation.**

**INTRODUCED BY**

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