**Sample Resolution**

**In Support of the SMART Fund, S-3752 and HR- 6954**

**WHEREAS** on March 9, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy declared a state of emergency and a public health emergency due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and on March 13, the President of the United States declared a national emergency due to the global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS** on March 16, Gov. Murphy ordered the closure of all New Jersey schools, effective March 18, and over the next few days ordered the closure of all non-essential businesses, and

**WHEREAS** the closure of businesses has resulted in revenue declines for small and large companies, worker layoffs, and a serious drop in the sales and income tax revenue received by state and local governments; and

**WHEREAS** the recently passed federal CARES Act contained no funding to offset drastic state revenue shortfalls, and;

**WHEREAS** to stabilize state budgets and to make sure states have the resources to battle the virus and provide the services the American people rely on, we believe that Congress must provide immediate fiscal assistance directly to all states; and

**WHEREAS**, U. S. Senators Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Bill Cassidy (R-La) have introduced the State and Municipal Assistance for Recovery and Transition (SMART) Act, S-3752 and HR- 6954, which provides $500 billion in emergency funding to every state, county and community in the country, while prioritizing assistance to the areas with the greatest need; and

**WHEREAS** without federal assistance, state and local leaders have warned of deep cuts to essential services and layoffs of workers, including those in education; and

**WHEREAS**, the funds in the bill can be used to help state and local governments meet the current demand, expand testing capacity and contact tracing, provide further assistance to residents, local hospitals, small businesses and schools, in addition to maintaining critical services residents depend upon; and

**WHEREAS** a bipartisan group of United States senators and congressional representatives have come forward to support this legislation, including Sen. Cory Booker and Rep. Mikie Sherrill of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS,** Sen. Menendez has said, “In the midst of a national emergency, the federal government cannot sit on its hands and watch our communities go bankrupt and our people suffer. This isn’t a blue state or red state issue—this is an American issue—and requires a national response,” and

**WHEREAS**,the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education believes that the SMART Fund is a reasonable and bipartisan approach needed by states and communities to deliver the flexible funding necessary to defeat COVID-19, maintain critical services, including educational services, avoid mass layoffs and expedite our nation’s economic recovery.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education urges the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States and the President to support** S-3752 and HR- 6954**; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Phil Murphy, Senator Bob Menendez, Senator Cory Booker, and U.S. Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey School Boards Association.**