



## Educators Are Heroes Act

*A bill to provide hazard pay to teachers and educators on the frontlines*

Our nation's educators are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic and among the most vulnerable workers in the nation. The Educators Are Heroes Act would provide 25 percent hazard pay to school staff during hours they are required to conduct in-person work. Congresswoman Kendra Horn (OK-5) introduced this legislation with cosponsors including Reps. André Carson (IN-7), Raúl Grijalva (AZ-3), Bennie Thompson (MS-2), and Michael San Nicolas (GU).

### EDUCATORS ARE VULNERABLE DURING COVID-19

- More than [250 school districts](#) in Oklahoma are reporting COVID-19 cases.
- While an estimated [90 percent](#) of children who contract coronavirus are asymptomatic, recent studies show that children may carry a [similar viral load](#) to adults, posing a serious risk of spreading COVID-19 in a school setting.
- Teachers in [six states](#), including Oklahoma, have already died during the fall semester due to COVID-19.

### Educators Are Teachers Act: How It Works



- Educators receive a 25% hazard pay wage premium for every hour they are required to conduct in-school work.



- Eligible workers include teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, counselors, cafeteria staff, janitors, and other school staff.



- K-12 public schools are eligible.



- Schools will apply for a hazard pay grant through the Secretary of the Treasury to cover the hazard pay premium and are eligible through the end of the public health emergency as determined by Health and Human Services.

### THE COST OF COVID-19

- COVID-19 has cost the lives of nearly 200,000 Americans and nearly 1,000 Oklahomans. Nearly [6,000 Oklahomans](#) have been hospitalized with the illness.
- The average estimated out-of-pocket cost for a COVID-19 insured patients is [\\$38,221](#). For patients out-of-network or without insurance, the average COVID-19 hospital stay costs \$73,300. The average American can't afford a [surprise \\$500 expense](#) without going into debt.
- Oklahoma ranks [40<sup>th</sup> in the nation](#) for teacher starting salaries.