**Equitable Services ADVOCACY TEMPLATE**

*Dear Representative/Senator*

*I am XXXXX <insert name, title and district>. I am reaching out today to express my deep concern with the USED’s recently released guidance for equitable services as it relates to the CARES Act.*

*The CARES Act directs districts to provide equitable services to private school in the same manner as Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which is based on the proportion of low-income children enrolled in public versus private schools.  In FY19 (the 2019-20 school year), my district set aside XX percent of its overall Title I, Part A funding allocation to support equitable services for private schools.*

*USED’s guidance, however, does not follow Title I’s process for calculating equitable services. Instead, it follows the process we use for Title II, Part A, which is based on the proportion of all children in public versus private schools.  In FY2019, we set aside XX percent of Title II funding to support equitable services for private schools.*

*As you can see, USED’s guidance would require my district to set aside a substantially larger share of CARES Act funds to private schools than we would have set aside if we followed Title I’s process as required by the CARES Act.  Simply put, USED’s guidance asks low-income students to heavily subsidize supports to higher-income students attending private schools. This is inequitable.*

*I urge you to work with your fellow members of Congress to ensure that CARES Act funding is allocated to public and private schools as intended, based on equity. USED has been asked, and I ask that you hold them accountable, to revise its April 30 guidance, to outline data elements and procedures for calculating equitable services consistent with the CARES Act, and encourage LEAs to use the percentage of FY 2019 Title I funds set aside for equitable services and apply that percentage to CARES Act funding. This approach will ensure that critical CARES support is provided in a consistent, transparent, and equitable manner.*

*Thank you,*

*<Insert Name/Signature>*