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## Access to Education and Affordable Housing (Panel Discussion)

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# **Access to Education and Affordable Housing, Panel Discussion**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 8, 2020**

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Haaland Holds Panel on Access to Education and Affordable Housing

Albuquerque, NM – Wednesday evening, Congresswoman Deb Haaland (NM-01), held a Facebook Live discussion on access to education and affordable housing. During her address, Congresswoman Haaland discussed the importance of accessible education during this pandemic. Haaland also mentioned the role evictions and financial stress play in education. COVID-19 risks have moved schools to virtual learning from home beginning in the Spring of 2020. Provisions in the CARES Act that protected families from falling behind financially including a \$1200 stimulus payment, \$600 additional weekly unemployment benefits, and eviction protections expired at the end of July, raising concerns about an increase in evictions and foreclosures.

Recently, Congresswoman Haaland introduced the Broadband for All Resolution to increase access to broadband internet. Last week, Haaland voted to pass a revised version of the Heroes Act to provide crucial relief to our families including a second round of economic impact payments of \$1,200 per taxpayer and \$500 per dependent, additional \$600 weekly federal unemployment payments, and new supports to assist renters and homeowners make monthly rent, mortgage and utility payments and other housing-related costs.

During the event, Haaland said, “Our homes have become our children’s learning centers during this crisis, and our parents have become interim school officials. For this reason, it is crucial, more than ever, to make sure our kids live in a stable living environment. Just like we ensure the stability of school facilities’, we should ensure that families and students are on equal footing. That is why I continue to pound the table and fight for more funding for our public schools and affordable housing.”

Experts with the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico Attorney General’s Office, UNM Law, United South Broadway Housing Counseling and Community Outreach, and Mortgage Finance Authority provided an update on housing and education resources available for New Mexico families struggling with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The help ranged from mortgage assistance, rent and utility resources, and information about housing rights.

[VIDEO: Haaland Holds Panel on Access to Education and Affordable Housing](#)

“I would like to thank Congresswoman Deb Haaland for providing the opportunity to discuss and share information concerning these critical issues in our community. One agency can’t do it alone and it is imperative that we work together to provide the

resources and support our community deserves,” said Julie Morgas Baca Bernalillo County Manager.

“Housing is not just about housing--there’s a straight line from housing stability to educational achievement and other issues including public health, physical and mental health and community development,” said Professor Serge Martinez, UNM Law School.

The Office of the New Mexico Attorney General provide information for constituents to raise concerns through [www.nmag.gov](http://www.nmag.gov) and filing a complaint by clicking on the “Submit a Complaint” tab on their website’s home page.

“During these difficult times, the City of Albuquerque is proud to be a partner working to make sure families are housing secure and have the necessary resources to ensure child wellbeing,” said Gilbert Ramirez, Deputy Director for the City of Albuquerque Health Programs & Response and Recovery Teams Member.