

March 24, 2023

Chair Robert Aderholt
Appropriations LHHS-ED Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
Appropriations LHHS-ED Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Chair Tammy Baldwin
Appropriations LHHS-ED Subcommittee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito
Appropriations LHHS-ED Subcommittee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairwoman Baldwin, and Ranking Member Capito:

The undersigned 59 organizations represent a coalition of education, disability, and other organizations dedicated to fulfilling the funding promise for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). On behalf of approximately 7.5 million students with disabilities, their teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, parents, school boards and administrators, we urge you to provide the maximum increase possible in funding for IDEA as part of a fair and proportional allocation for the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 LHHS-Education appropriations bill. **Specifically, we ask that you provide no less than \$16.259 billion for IDEA Part B Grants to States, putting IDEA on a glidepath to full funding.**

As you know, when IDEA was first enacted in 1975, Congress anticipated that the cost of providing education to IDEA-eligible students would be approximately twice that of the cost to educate non-disabled students. Thus, Congress authorized a Federal funding contribution of 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure (APPE). In exchange for this Federal funding, states and districts must ensure that all eligible students are provided a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. However, the closest the federal government has come to reaching its 40 percent commitment was 18 percent in 2004-2006, and in recent years federal funding has leveled off and even been cut.

The IDEA Part B grants to states program is currently funded at \$14.19 billion via annual appropriations, approximately 12 percent of APPE. The chronic underfunding of IDEA by the federal government places an additional funding burden on states, local school districts, and taxpayers to pay for needed services, and school programs that are also beneficial to students with disabilities. Funding programs that serve students with disabilities is one of the best measures of Congress' desire to offer a quality education to every single student, and the FY 2024 appropriations bill is a first step in the right direction toward helping Congress realize its IDEA funding commitment.

The full benefit of IDEA Part B investment is only realized when Congress also recognizes the importance of increasing funding for other parts of IDEA to adequately support our nation's students with

disabilities. To fully achieve the goal of providing a free appropriate public education for all students, we must provide sufficient funding to support early intervention services, transition services, professional preparation and development, and other critical components within IDEA.

We strongly support a prioritized and meaningful investment in IDEA, without negatively impacting funding for other education programs, and urge Congress to provide a significant increase for IDEA Part B State Grants as you negotiate the FY 2024 appropriations package.

Sincerely,

AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education)
AASA, The School Superintendents Association
Advocacy Institute
All4Ed
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers
American Music Therapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Association of Assistive Technology Act Program
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)
Autism Society of America
Autism Speaks
Autistic People of Color Fund
Autistic Women and Nonbinary Network
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
CAST
Center for Learner Equity
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Coalition for Adequate Funding for Special Education
Committee for Children
CommunicationFIRST
Consortium of State School Boards Associations
Council for Exceptional Children
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
Council of the Great City Schools

Division of Learning Disabilities, Council for Exceptional Children
EDGE Consulting Partners
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education (HECSE)
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Los Angeles Unified School District
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
National Association for Pupil Transportation
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA)
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Consortium for Physical Education for Individuals with Disabilities
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Education Association
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium
National Rural Education Association
RespectAbility
San Diego Unified School District
TASH
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children (TED)
The Arc of the United States
The National Association for Music Education
The National Conference of State Legislatures
United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA)

CC: U.S. Senate, Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives, Appropriations Subcommittee