



December X, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders:

We write to urge your support for and engagement with two opportunities to support investment in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA protects students with disabilities by guaranteeing the right to a free appropriate public education. Without this funding, school districts are required to pay a higher proportion of the special education costs to ensure students with disabilities receive required special education and related services.

Each year that Congress fails to fully fund IDEA, our schools and children suffer. The IDEA Full Funding Act would create a path to gradually increase federal dollars appropriated for IDEA over the next few years until it reaches the 40% level. This essential increase will provide much-needed relief for school districts in the provision of special education and related services to students with disabilities.

There are two actions we ask you to consider:

- Protect and prioritize IDEA investment in FY25: When Congress resumes its work on annual appropriations, support funding levels that protect and prioritize investment in IDEA. 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, while holding all other education programs harmless from funding cuts.

- Sign on to co-sponsor the IDEA Full Funding Act, which would provide support to school districts as they ensure that children with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education. Despite the federal government's promise to provide 40% of the extra costs associated with educating students with disabilities, it currently only covers approximately 10.2% annually. The IDEA Full Funding Act is S. 2217 / H.R. 4529.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

National Organizations Signatures

[List here]

State and Local Signatures

[List here]