



August 25, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128 Capitol Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128 Capitol Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 Capitol Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Capito, Ranking Member Baldwin, Chair Aderholt, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

The Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) Education Task Force respectfully request that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations Act include the legislative text of S. 5046, bipartisan legislation recently approved by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to prohibit implementation of the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Inter-Agency Agreements (IAAs) transferring the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) and other key responsibilities outside ED. We also urge the Committee to block all other IAAs that seek to dismantle ED, including but not limited to the Office for Civil Rights.

The CCD Education Task Force leads, advocates for, and monitors federal legislation and regulations that address the educational needs of the 10.25 million infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities and their families, including policy efforts affecting the funding and implementation of Federal laws such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). We urge you to provide robust funding for the federal programs that support infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities, their families, and the educators and service providers who serve them while avoiding cuts to other education programs. We also request that Congress include within the text of the statute to maintain the requirements of current federal statutes that require ED to oversee all federal education laws. It is imperative that Congress assert its



oversight authority and prohibit the illegal dismantling of the Department through the unprecedented use of IAAs.

To ensure we achieve the shared goal for students to make meaningful gains toward higher education and successful employment outcomes, it is essential that Congress address the historic underfunding of IDEA and related programs and significantly increase and sustain key programs that support infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities, their families, and the personnel who serve them.

Recommendations

To meet these goals and to promote educational access and opportunity for all infants, toddlers, children,

youth, and young adults with disabilities, we respectfully request that Congress:

1. Support and increase funding in FY 2027 for each program as outlined in our [April appropriations request](#).
2. Include IDEA and related funding specifics within the FY 2027 statute to ensure the allocated funding that supports students with disabilities is firmly articulated by Congress and enshrined in law and reject recommendations made by the White House to block grant any funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
3. Maintain existing statutory authority for the Department to oversee federal education laws and prohibit the use of IAAs to dismantle the Department.

CCD strongly believes that IDEA is a bedrock law that ensures equal educational opportunities for all children with disabilities. This law and the related education and access programs included in our recommendations require robust federal support to help states meet IDEA's requirements and support individualized educational access and pathways to employment for people with disabilities. To ensure these positive outcomes are attainable, it is imperative that you support and increase annual funding, provide the detailed funding allocations in the FY 2027 statute, and support a strong U.S. Department of Education to help states and districts meet the growing needs of students with disabilities.



Thank you for considering our recommendations as you continue work on the FY 2027 appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies.

Sincerely,

Access Ready, Inc.

Allies for Independence

American Association of People with Disabilities

American Music Therapy Association

American Physical Therapy Association

American Physical Therapy Association Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

American Therapeutic Recreation Association

Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA)

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Autism Society of America

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

CommunicationFIRST

Council for Exceptional Children

Council for Learning Disabilities

Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA)

Cure SMA

Disability Belongs®

Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund

Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)

Epilepsy Foundation of America

Learning Disabilities Association of America

Muscular Dystrophy Association

National Association of School Psychologists

National Center for Learning Disabilities

National Down Syndrome Congress

National PLACE

National Rehabilitation Association



Perkins School for the Blind
SSWAA (School Social Workers Association of America)
The Advocacy Institute
The Arc of the United States
The Center for Learner Equity
The Viscardi Center
Tourette Association of America

CC:

The Honorable Susan Collins (R-ME)
The Honorable Patty Murray (D-WA)
The Honorable Tom Cole (R-OK)

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