



February 3, 24, 2014

RE: Polis/Huffman/McKinley/Harper IDEA Full Funding Dear Colleague Letter

Dear Representative:

As members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Education Task Force (CCD), a coalition of more than 115 organizations that work together to advance the rights of students with disabilities and their families, we urge you to sign the Dear Colleague letter being circulated by Reps. Polis, Huffman, McKinley, and Harper which asks President Obama to increase funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in his FY 2015 budget proposal.

More than six million children and youth with disabilities and their families across the nation benefit from the services and supports provided by IDEA. States use the funding from IDEA to provide special education and related services so that students with disabilities can gain the skills they need to be career and college ready.

Since 1975, when Congress affirmed the constitutional right to an education for students with disabilities, it established a state grant program to assist states in meeting their obligation to these students and set a goal of providing 40 percent of the extra costs associated with educating students with disabilities. Today, the federal share represents 15 percent. This inadequate federal investment, in combination with the recent budget cuts at the state and local level, has made it increasingly difficult for local schools districts to meet their obligations to children with disabilities. . Investing in IDEA, a federal civil rights law designed to help level the educational playing field for students with disabilities, is an investment in our nation's students and their future, and represents an indication that the Federal government is serious in meeting its 39-year commitment to helping school districts meet the needs of all students.

Therefore, we urge you sign the Polis-Huffman-McKinley-Harper Dear Colleague letter to request that President Obama increase funding for IDEA in his FY 2015 budget proposal. To sign, please contact Nick Hromalik in Rep. Huffman's office at Nicholas.Hromalik@mail.house.gov or call (202) 225-5161, or Jeff Wilson in Rep. McKinley's office at Jeffrey.Wilson@mail.house.gov or call (202) 225-4172.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Jones
Katy Neas
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National Center for Learning Disabilities
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