



May 28, 2015

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
131 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Isakson:

On behalf of the Education Taskforce of the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) which represents the nearly six million students with disabilities who receive special education services across the country, we write to extend our sincere appreciation for your work during the Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee mark-up of the of the Every Child Achieves Act (ECAA). As the premier coalition of disability groups in the nation, we thank you for withdrawing your amendment on the 1 percent cap on participation in alternate assessments on alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAS) for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

We know that your motivation in this issue is grounded in a desire to help students with disabilities. We are grateful that you were willing to hear the concerns of parents and advocates that stem from their direct experience with the AA-AAS and thus withdrew your amendment. CCD thanks you for this important decision. As you know from previous written and in-person communications, we want to work with you to ensure the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) fully supports the academic success of all children, including those with disabilities.

Again, thank you for your leadership on behalf of students with disabilities and their families. We look forward to working with you as the Every Child Achieves Act moves forward.

Sincerely,

ACCSES
American Foundation for the Blind
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Brain Injury Association of America
Council for Learning Disabilities
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Easter Seals
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Down Syndrome Congress
The Arc

cc: The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a coalition of national consumer, advocacy, provider and professional organizations headquartered in Washington, D.C. Since 1973, the CCD has advocated on behalf of people of all ages with physical and mental disabilities and their families. CCD has worked to achieve federal legislation and regulations that assure that the 54 million children and adults with disabilities are fully integrated into the mainstream of society. For additional information, please contact:

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