



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

July 27, 2011

The Honorable Judy Biggert
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Dale Kildee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Ryan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Biggert, Kildee and Ryan:

We are writing to express our support for H.R. 2437, the Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning Act of 2011. Research and experience have demonstrated that students who have problem-solving, conflict resolution, decision making and relationship building skills are engaged, successful learners. These are skills that can be taught by teachers who have the benefit of professional development and quality curriculum to use in their classrooms. Students who get the benefit of this instruction and develop these skills not only perform better academically, but they are far less likely to engage in problem behaviors that interfere with their well-being.

This legislation will provide access to critical professional development resources for schools to make sure teachers are knowledgeable about evidence-based social and emotional programming and know how to use it effectively. Your leadership on this important issue is greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with you to promote this legislation and assure its inclusion in the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act that is currently being written in the Congress.

Thank you for your leadership on this important legislation

Sincerely,

Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autism National Committee
Council for Learning Disabilities

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Easter Seals
Learning Disabilities Association
Mental Health America
National Association of School Psychologists
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National PTA
School Social Work Association of America
The Arc of the United States

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a coalition of nearly 100 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. Approximately 50 national organizations participate in the CCD Education Task Force. For additional information, please contact:

Katy Beh Neas, Easter Seals	202.347.3066	kneas@easterseals.com
Laura Kaloi, National Center on Learning Disabilities	703.922.5039	lkaloi@ncld.org
Cindy Smith, National Disability Rights Network	202.408.9514	cindy.smith@ndrn.org