



February 28, 2017

Dear Senator:

The co-chairs of the of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Education Task Force, on behalf of the CCD Education Taskforce, write in opposition of H.J. Res 57 to rescind the accountability regulations under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The CCD Education Task Force advocates for Federal public policy that ensures the self- determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. The CCD Task Force sees these principles as critical elements in a society that recognizes and respects the dignity and worth of all its members.

The CCD Ed Task Force believes that the ESSA accountability regulations are critical for meaningful implementation of ESSA. The regulations clarify the statutory language in ESSA, build upon ESSA's flexibility for school improvement and provide a clarified role for families, educators and stakeholders to share in the implementation process. Perhaps, most importantly, the final regulations help assure that States meaningfully develop accountability plans that will create statewide systems to identify schools and districts which need to target funds to intervene and support students not meeting state-determined standards. We view this as critical to helping shine a needed light on the education gap for groups of students, including students with disabilities so they can make important gains and achieve the same education outcomes as their peers.

The passage of ESSA was a successful bi-partisan effort to improve education for all students built upon the frame of accountability. To rescind these regulations would not only be a disservice to the spirit of ESSA and diminish the efficacy of the law, but would also serve to undermine the equity of educational opportunity for all students, including students with disabilities.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the co-chairs listed below.

Sincerely,

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