



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

February 25, 2020

Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS Education Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Tom Cole
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS Education Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Roy Blunt
Senate Subcommittee on Labor
HHS Education Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Patty Murray
Senate Subcommittee on Labor
HHS Education Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Cole, Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Education Task Force writes to urge you to *reject* President Trump's Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget proposal and work together to support increased investments in all federal education programs including those that serve students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are general education students first and it is imperative that Congress provide funds through all education programs to ensure resources are available so states can provide a high-quality education to students with disabilities.

CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate 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. Due to the expansive national reach of our coalition, we know that schools and districts need additional resources to provide essential services to students with disabilities and the FY 2021 budget falls short. In fact, overall, the budget proposal cuts the Department of Education (ED) by \$6.4 billion, or 8.4 percent which is unacceptable.

CCD is especially dismayed by the approach taken by the Administration's proposal to: block grant all of K-12 education programs; make unnecessary cuts to higher education; provide the tiniest of increases to IDEA Part B while level funding all other special education programs; and offer to divert \$5 billion public education funds to a tax credit scheme that will harm public education and would not protect the civil rights of students with disabilities.

Students with disabilities and the educators and professionals who teach and work with them daily deserve better and are especially at great risk under the FY 2021 proposal. You must deliver an appropriations bill that provides more resources, not less, so that states and districts can meet all of the educational needs of students with disabilities. **We therefore ask you to bypass the President's budget and work collectively to uphold your responsibility to pass comprehensive appropriations bills that provide funding as proposed below.**

Thank you for your support to ensure that students with disabilities have every opportunity to succeed in school and beyond. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

American Council of the Blind
American Dance Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Autism Society of America
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
CommunicationFIRST
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
Council for Exceptional Children
Council for Learning Disabilities
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children
Easterseals
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education
IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association
National Association for Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment
National Down Syndrome Congress
National PTA
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association for Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment
National PTA
School Social Work Association of America
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children
The Advocacy Institute
The Arc of the United States

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities FY 2021 Education Appropriations Recommendations

Elementary and Secondary Education Title Grants Programs:

- **Title I:** \$16.76 B
- **Title II:** \$2.556 B
- **Title IV:** \$1.6 B

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

- **IDEA Part B State Grants:** \$14 B
- **IDEA Part B Section 619:** \$684 M
- **IDEA Part C:** \$975 M
- **IDEA Part D – National Activities**
 - State Personnel Development Grants: \$44 M
 - Technical Assistance and Development: \$49.7 M
 - IDEA Personnel Preparation: \$100 M
 - Parent Training Information Centers: \$30.5 M
 - Education Technology and Media: \$31.6 M
 - Special Olympics: \$20.1 M

Institute for Education Sciences, National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER): \$70 M

Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Grants: \$32 M

Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: \$135 M

Higher Education:

- Teacher Quality Partnership Grants: \$60 M
- Model Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities: \$15 M