

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 24, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, and
Education
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, and
Education
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Murray:

We respectfully encourage you to provide the highest possible funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as you work to prioritize federal commitments supported through the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations legislation for the upcoming fiscal year.

As you know, Congress committed to providing federal funding to support at least 40 percent of the excess cost of educating students with disabilities at the time of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's passage into law in 1975. Yet we have annually seen the federal government fall short of meeting this level of support, and in recent years, the federal government commitment has remained flat at approximately 15 percent.

States and school districts use federal IDEA funding to support a number of critical activities such as developing individualized learning plans and instruction for students with disabilities and supporting successful educational outcomes for each of these children. These critical federal dollars demonstrate our commitment to supporting teachers and the broader educational workforce, families, and students with disabilities.

The approximately 6.5 million children with disabilities who are being educated in our nation's public school deserve our strong support. We urge you to provide the highest possible funding for IDEA as you consider a number of critical priorities for the upcoming year.

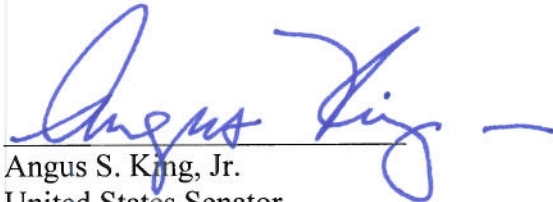
Sincerely,



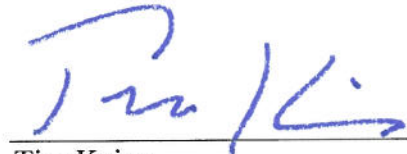
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



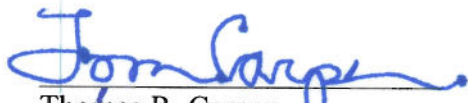
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

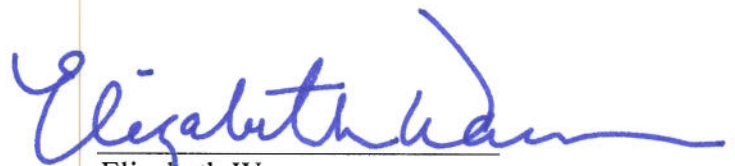


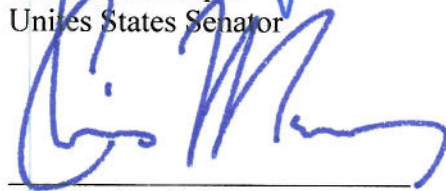
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator




Tim Kaine
United States Senator

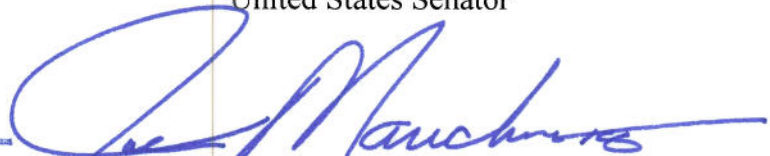

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator


Jack Reed
United States Senator

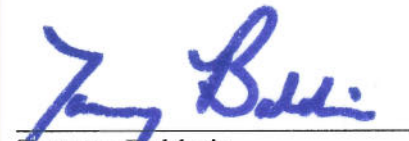

Al Franken
United States Senator


Joe Manchin, III
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

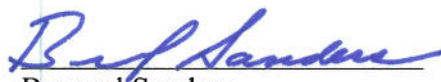

Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

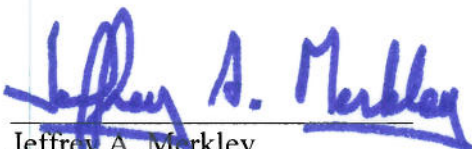

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator


Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator


Mark R. Warner
United States Senator


Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator


Robert Menendez
United States Senator



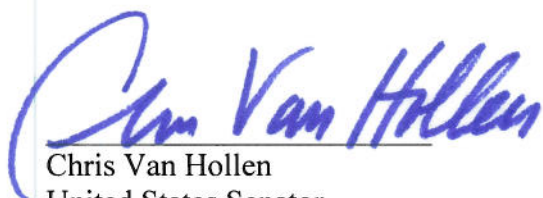
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



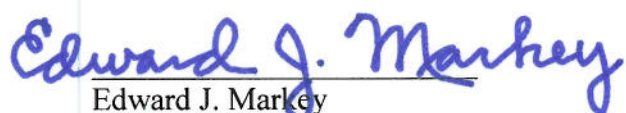
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



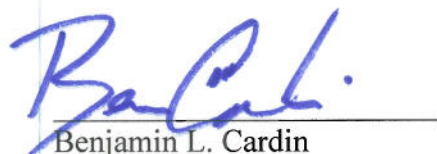
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



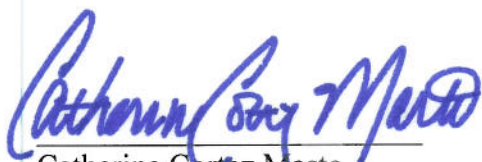
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



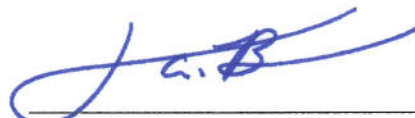
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



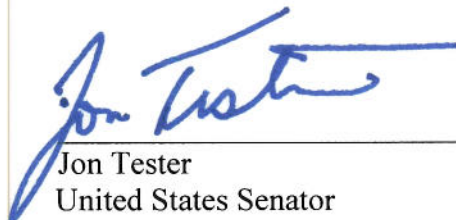
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



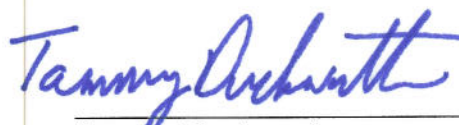
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



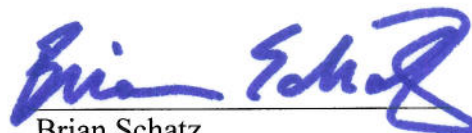
Jon Tester
United States Senator



Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator