

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
S-128 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member 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 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 6.8 million children with disabilities who are being educated in our nation's public schools 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.

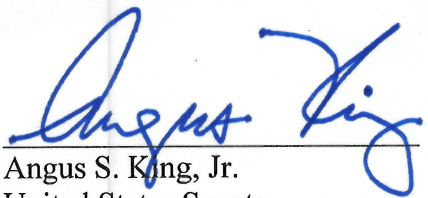
Sincerely,



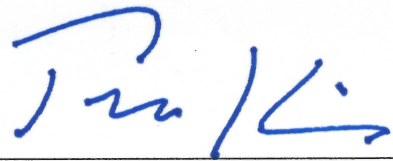
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate



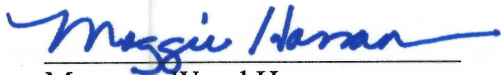
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate



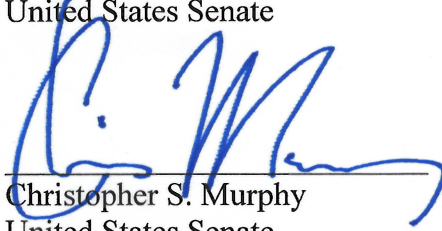
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senate



Tim Kaine
United States Senate



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senate



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senate



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate



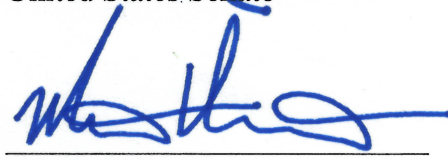
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senate



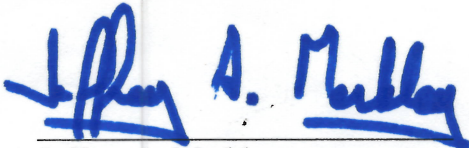
Joe Manchin III
United States Senate



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate



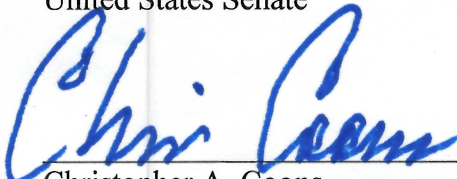
Martin Heinrich
United States Senate



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senate



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate



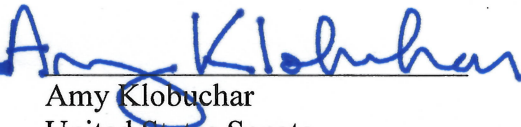
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senate



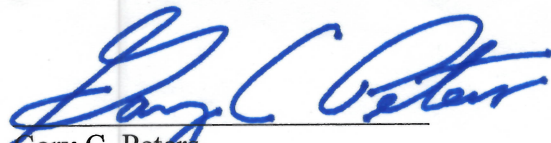
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate




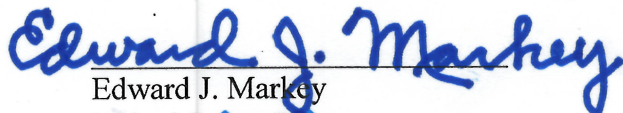
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate

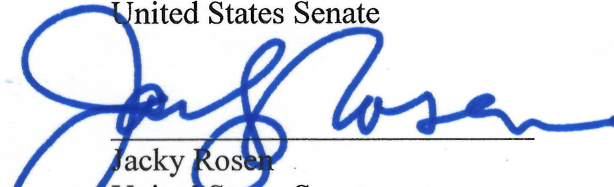


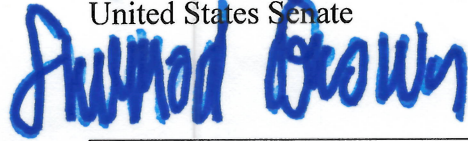
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate

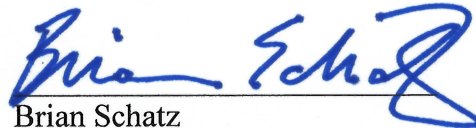

Gary C. Peters
United States Senate

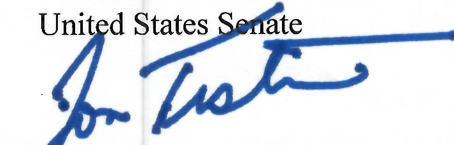

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate



Edward J. Markey
United States Senate



Jacky Rosen
United States Senate


Sherrod Brown
United States Senate

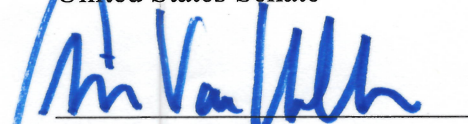

Brian Schatz
United States Senate

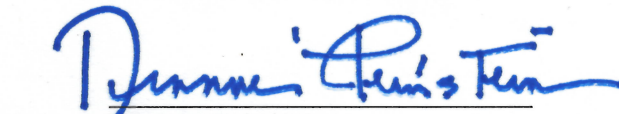

Jon Tester
United States Senate



Doug Jones
United States Senate

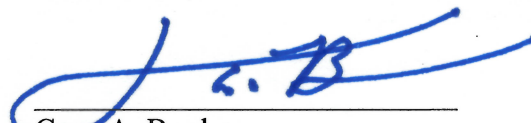

Maria Cantwell
United States Senate



Tina Smith
United States Senate



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate

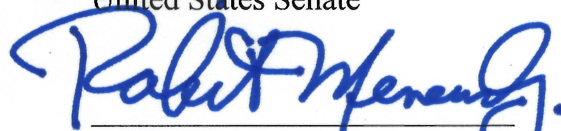

Jack Reed
United States Senate


Cory A. Booker
United States Senate


Bernard Sanders
United States Senate

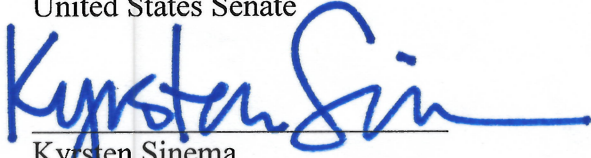

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate


Tammy Duckworth
United States Senate

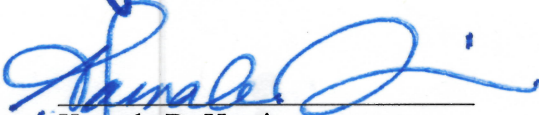

Robert Menendez
United States Senate



Mark R. Warner
United States Senate



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senate



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate