

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 10, 2018

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

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
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 Senator




RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



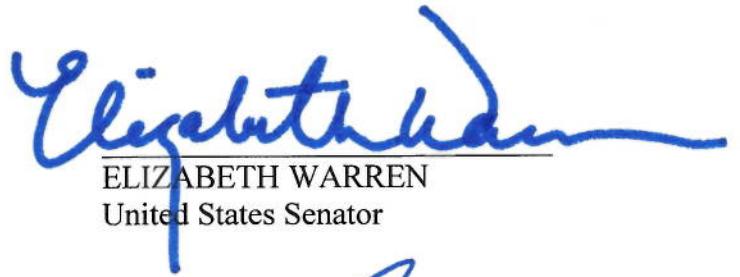
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United States Senator



MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
United States Senator



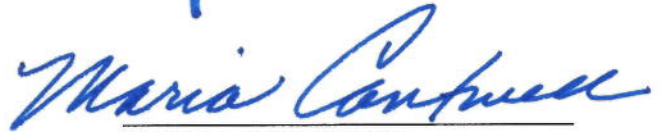
JOE MANCHIN III
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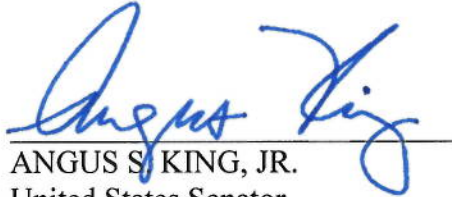
ELIZABETH WARREN
United States Senator



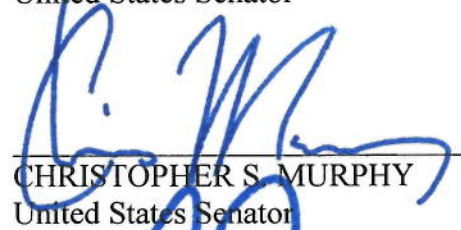
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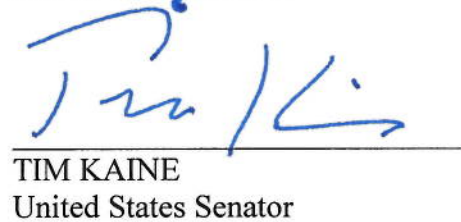
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TIM KAINE
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United States Senator



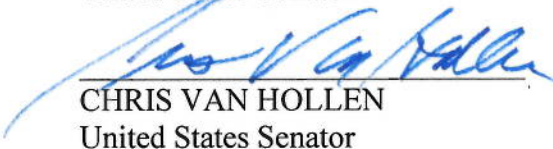
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United States Senator



SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
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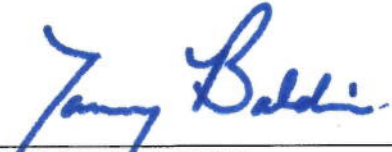
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
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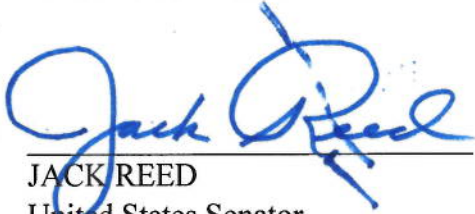
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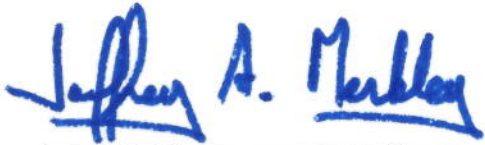
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ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
United States Senator



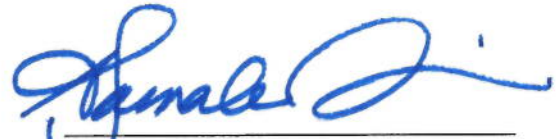
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MARK R. WARNER
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MAZIE K. HIRONO
United States Senator



KAMALA D. HARRIS
United States Senator



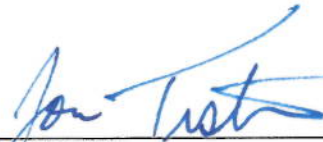
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