



NATIONAL CENTER

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December 3, 2021

The Honorable Bobby Scott, Chair
House Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Ranking Member
House Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education Labor, and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Chair Scott, Ranking Member Foxx, Chair Murray, and Ranking Member Burr:

The National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) is the country's oldest national organization for people with Down syndrome, their families, and the professionals who work with them. We provide information, advocacy and support concerning all aspects of life for individuals with Down syndrome, and work to create a national climate in which all people will recognize and embrace the value and dignity of people with Down syndrome.

NDSC writes in strong support of the reintroduction of the IDEA Full Funding Act. This bipartisan legislation would ensure Congress' commitment to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It is time for Congress to create a path to fulfilling the commitment made in 1975, when IDEA became law. The Federal government has never reached even half of its promised level of funding. Exacerbating this severe and persistent shortfall in Federal funding is the recent increase in the number of students being served under the IDEA. While districts and schools work to address anticipated instructional loss, mental health impacts, and other adverse pandemic-related impacts of COVID-19 for students with disabilities, the need for additional IDEA funding is critical. A significant increase in Federal funding for IDEA would ensure that funding is available for school programs that can benefit all students, including students with disabilities.

We urge you to pass this important piece of legislation to provide a meaningful increase to education programs that support students with disabilities. Thank you for considering this request. Please contact Ricki Sabia, NDSC's Senior Education Policy Advisor, with any questions at ricki@ndscenter.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacey Ramirez".

Stacey Ramirez
Interim Executive Director
National Down Syndrome Congress
stacey@ndscenter.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ricki Sabia".

Ricki Sabia
Senior Education Policy Advisor
National Down Syndrome Congress
ricki@ndscenter.org