

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 15, 2021

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

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

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Blunt:

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.

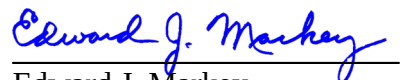
States and school districts use federal IDEA funding to support a number of critical activities such as developing individualized learning plans and instruction for students with disabilities and supporting successful educational outcomes for each of these children. These critical federal dollars demonstrate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

The approximately 7 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

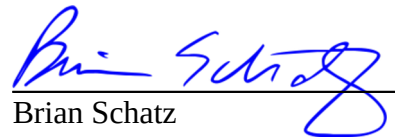


Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



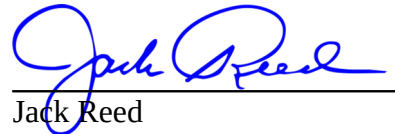
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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



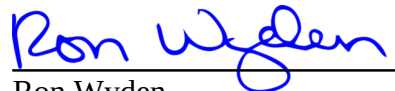
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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



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Tina Smith  
United States Senator



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



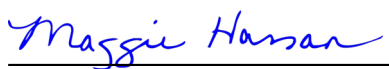
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Chris Murphy  
United States Senator



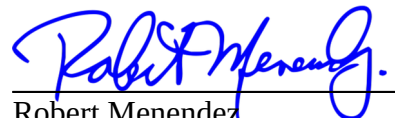
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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



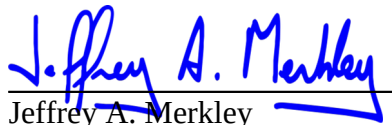
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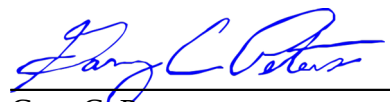
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator





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Robert Menendez  
United States Senator

  
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator


  
Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator

  
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator


  
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator


  
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator


  
Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator


  
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator


  
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

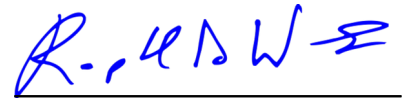
  
Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

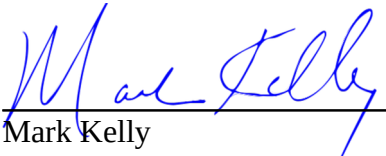
  
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

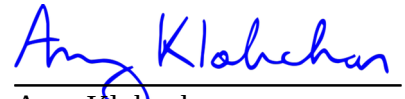
  
Jon Tester  
United States Senator

  
Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

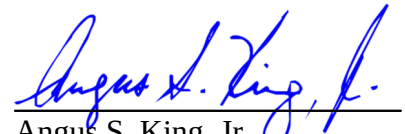
  
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator


  
Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator


  
Mark Kelly  
United States Senator


  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

  
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

  
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

  
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator

  
Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



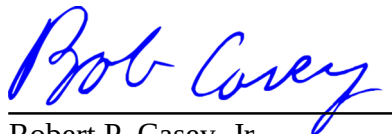
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



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Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator