



Education Taskforce Report for 2017

2017 ACTIVITIES

The Task Force was active and continued to meet the 2nd Friday of each month from 12:30-2 pm. This year focused on the direction of the U.S. Department of Education under the Trump Administration as well as Congressional activity. Specifically, the Taskforce requested clarification on key questions from then nominee Betsy DeVos, opposed actions taken through the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to overturn accountability regulations of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), supported the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Full Funding Act, opposed the NY ESSA waiver on out of level testing, commented on the Regulatory Reform Agenda, commented on the Secretary's Proposed Supplemental Priorities and Definitions for Discretionary Grant Programs, asked for the Administration to explain its process to approve waivers under ESSA, submitted priorities for a reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA), expressed deep concern regarding H.R. 4508 the PROSPER Act – to reauthorize the HEA, and recommended implementation of the significant disproportionality regulations.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- The task force will continue to closely monitor activity from the U.S. Department of Education.
- The taskforce will continue work to educate the Administration and Congress about the education of students with disabilities and the myriad of statutes, regulations, guidance which direct that education.
- The taskforce will continue to track ESSA state plans including any waivers and issues around use of the assessments and alternate assessments.
- The taskforce will work closely with both the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) and House Education and Workforce Committees as HEA reauthorization moves forward.
- The task force will continue to work to secure passage of the Keeping All Students Safe Act, IDEA Full Funding bill, and other legislation.
- The task force will continue to monitor and work on strengthening implementation and enforcement of the IDEA.

CO-CHAIRS IN 2017

Lindsay Jones – National Center for Learning Disabilities

Laura Kaloi – Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates

Amanda Lowe – National Disability Rights Network

Kim Musheno – Autism Society of America