



May 28, 2015

The Honorable Chris Murphy
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murphy:

On behalf of the Education Taskforce of the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) which represents the nearly six million students with disabilities who receive special education services across the country, we write to extend our most sincere appreciation for your work during the Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee mark-up of the of the *Every Child Achieves Act* (ECAA). We write especially to thank you for:

- Introducing the *Every Child Counts Act* (S. 516) that directly contributed to ensuring provisions were included in the ECAA requiring that states may only assess up to 1 percent of all students with alternate assessments aligned to alternate academic achievement standards
- Offering the amendment that successfully passed which requires states to put policies in place that prevent ‘*any physical restraint or seclusion imposed solely for purposes of discipline or convenience.*’ Through the amendment, federal policy takes an important step forward in helping send a clear message that students [including those with disabilities] should not be subjected to the abusive practices we know occur too frequently in schools. Federal policy in this area is sorely needed and your leadership and persistence in pushing this important issue to the fore is greatly appreciated.
- Offering the amendment that would support student subgroup accountability in ESEA. While ultimately, the amendment had to be withdrawn, we sincerely appreciate that you understand that the ECAA currently *only* requires states and districts to intervene in the lowest performing schools as identified by the state; and, *does not require* states and districts to provide interventions [that they design] when groups of students *in any other school* are not meeting state reading, math or graduation standards. CCD supports this important provision being added to the ECAA because without such accountability, groups of students in schools and/or districts could make little or no progress yet remain invisible and off the radar of the school and district. We know such groups of students exist and the ESEA must fully ensure that they don’t languish. These students deserve to have every opportunity to become college and/or career ready with their peers and it should up to the district and state to help make this happen. CCD appreciates your efforts to make the outcomes of all students matter in the reauthorized ESEA.

Again, thank you for your leadership on behalf of students with disabilities and their families. We look forward to working with you as the *Every Child Achieves Act* moves forward.

Sincerely,

ACCSES
American Foundation for the Blind
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Brain Injury Association of America
Council for Learning Disabilities
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Easter Seals
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Down Syndrome Congress
The Arc

cc: The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a coalition of national consumer, advocacy, provider and professional organizations headquartered in Washington, D.C. Since 1973, the CCD has advocated on behalf of people of all ages with physical and mental disabilities and their families. CCD has worked to achieve federal legislation and regulations that assure that the 54 million children and adults with disabilities are fully integrated into the mainstream of society. For additional information, please contact:

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