

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 18, 2014

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

As you craft your budget for fiscal year 2015, we write to recommend a significant increase in federal funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The IDEA provides individual-specific programs and services for students with a wide range of disabilities, including hearing impairment, autism, language impairment, and learning disabilities. Currently, there are over 6.5 million children eligible for special education services under the disability categories of the IDEA. The comprehensive assessment and support services authorized by IDEA help to close the academic achievement gap and ensure a meaningful education for every student.

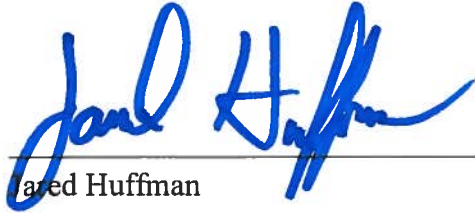
We owe it to all students to provide a quality education that will help them graduate and enter successful careers. Under Part B of IDEA—the main component of the law for school children ages 3-21—the federal government committed to contributing 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure (APPE) for each special education student. However, we have always fallen short of this commitment, with funding for IDEA Part B never reaching above 18.5 percent. This shortfall exacerbates the long-running challenges facing states and local school districts, which are faced with decreasing federal resources, rising special education costs, and growing student populations. Ultimately, this situation shortchanges all students because this federal funding shortfall strains state general funds.

The federal government needs a plan to move us toward full funding for IDEA. This should begin with incremental increases, beginning in fiscal year 2015, in spending. Full federal funding for IDEA will help deliver an appropriate education for children with disabilities and provide necessary support to our teachers and school administrators who are working tirelessly, with limited resources, to better the lives of all students.


In addition to the request of increased FY15 funds for the IDEA program, we propose a renewed partnership with the Administration to consider reauthorization of the Act and identify a plan to reach full funding for IDEA over the next ten years.


Please do not hesitate to contact our offices with any questions. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on how best to increase federal funding for IDEA for the coming fiscal year and in the future.

Sincerely,


  
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

  
David McKinley  
Member of Congress


  
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress


  
Gregg Harper  
Member of Congress

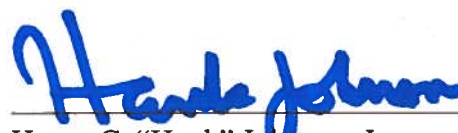
  
Elijah Cummings  
Member of Congress

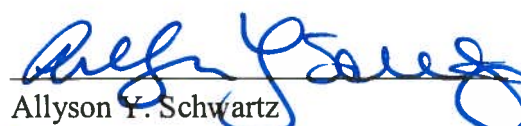
  
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

  
Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress

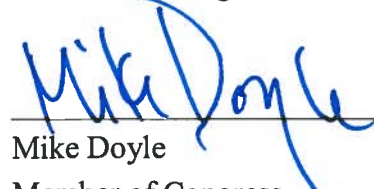
  
Michael Grimm  
Member of Congress


  
Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress

  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Allyson Y. Schwartz  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Honda  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

  
Juan Vargas  
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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



David Price  
Member of Congress



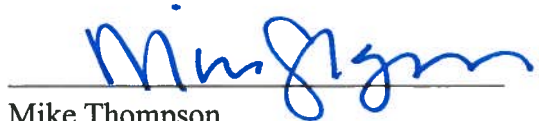
Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



Gary Peters  
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



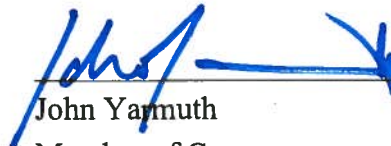
Tim Walz  
Member of Congress



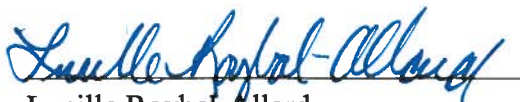
John Delaney  
Member of Congress



Ron Barber  
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John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

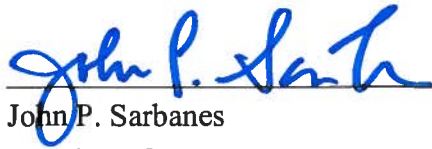


Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

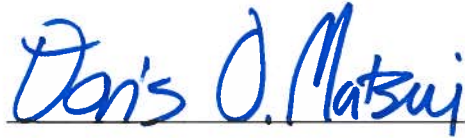


James P. Moran  
Member of Congress

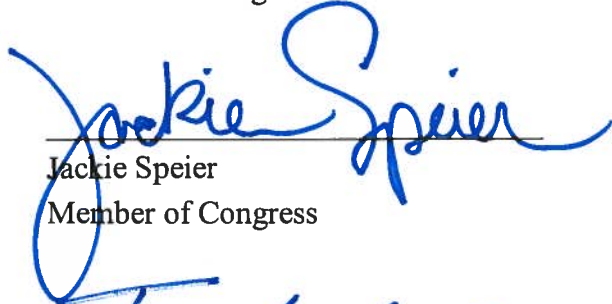


  
John P. Sarbanes

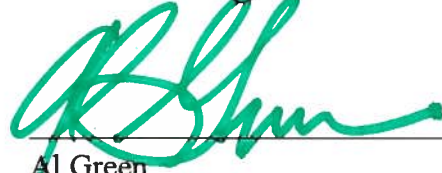
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Doris O. Matsui

Member of Congress

  
Jackie Speier

Member of Congress

  
Al Green

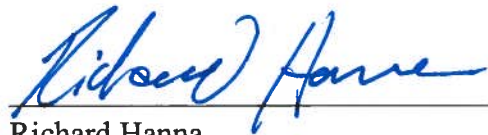
Member of Congress

  
Tony Cárdenas

Member of Congress

  
Nick J. Rahall, II

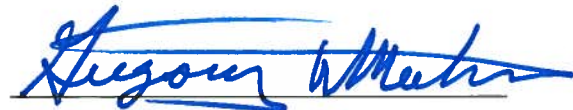
Member of Congress

  
Richard Hanna

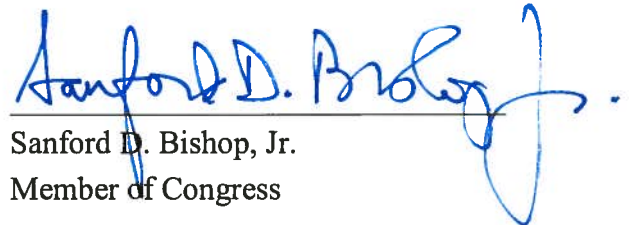
Member of Congress

  
Donna M. Christensen

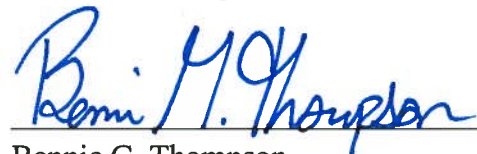
Member of Congress

  
Gregory W. Meeks

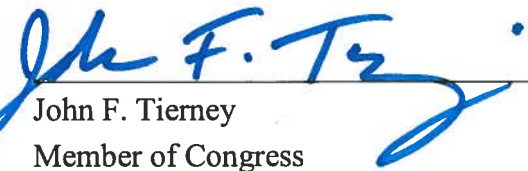
Member of Congress

  
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.


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Bennie G. Thompson

Member of Congress

  
John F. Tierney

Member of Congress

  
Shella Jackson Lee

Member of Congress

  
Maxine Waters


Member of Congress

  
Gloria Negrete McLeod

Member of Congress

  
Brian Higgins

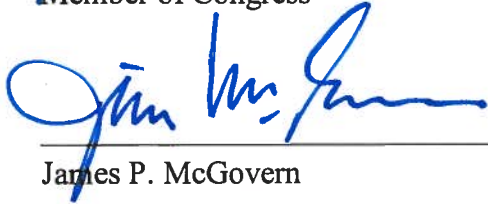
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
Member of Congress



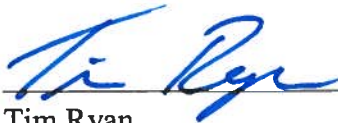
Don Young  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



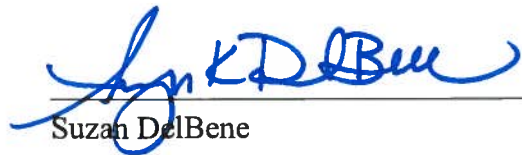
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene  
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Dina Titus  
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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



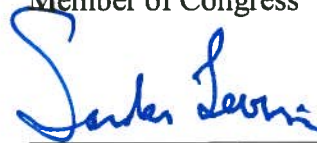
Rush Holt  
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress



Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



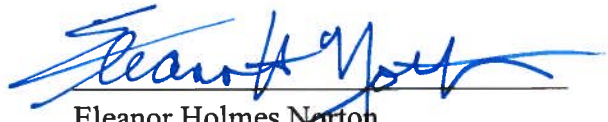
Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



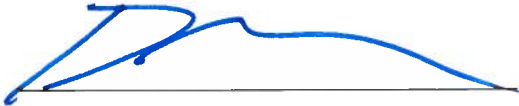
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress



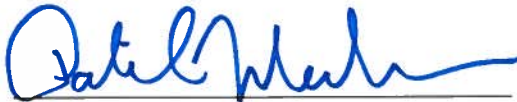
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



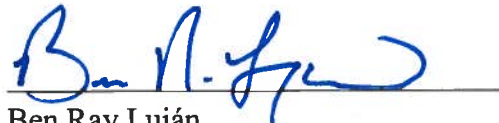
Patrick Murphy  
Member of Congress




Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan  
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Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress



Yvette Clarke  
Member of Congress



Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress



Eliot Engel  
Member of Congress



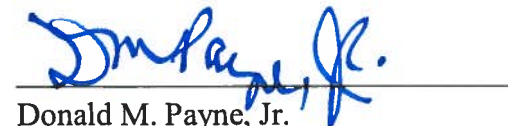
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



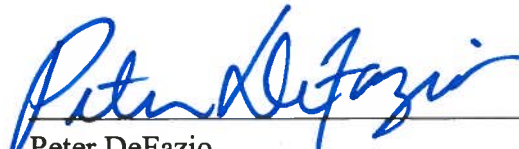
Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Mike Michaud  
Member of Congress



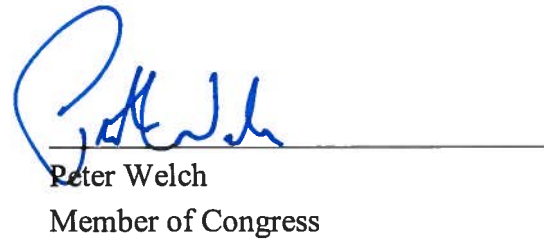
Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

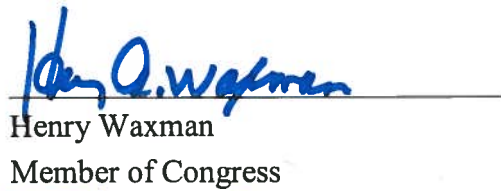


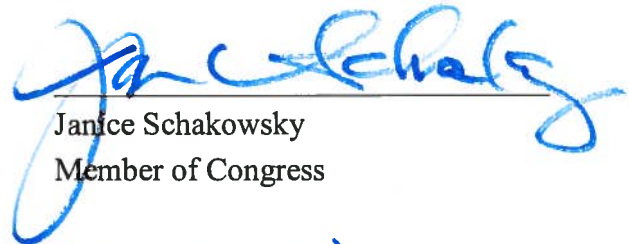
  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

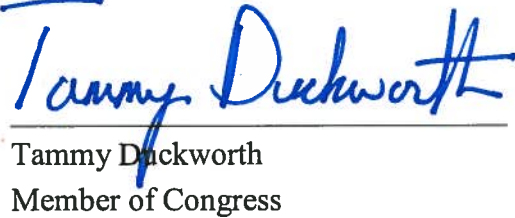
  
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

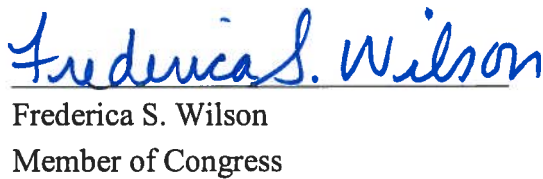
  
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

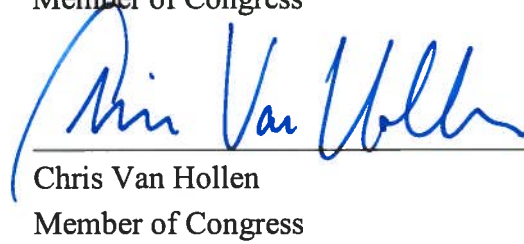
  
Henry Waxman  
Member of Congress

  
Janice Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

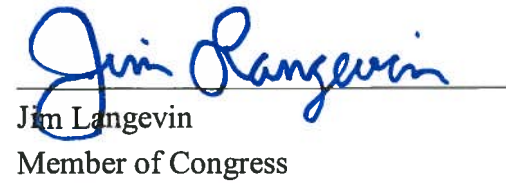
  
Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress

  
Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

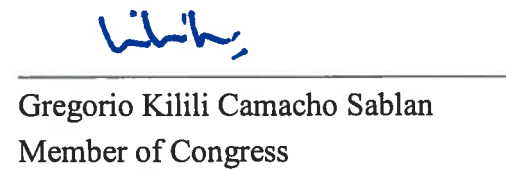
  
Frederica S. Wilson  
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Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress

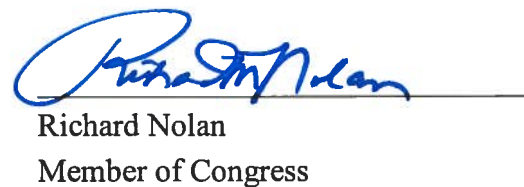
  
Louise M. Slaughter  
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Jim Langevin  
Member of Congress

  
Robert A. Brady  
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Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
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Christopher Gibson  
Member of Congress

  
Richard Nolan  
Member of Congress



Susan Davis  
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



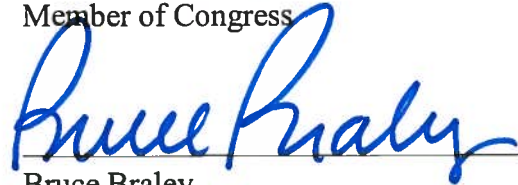
Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress



Tim Bishop  
Member of Congress



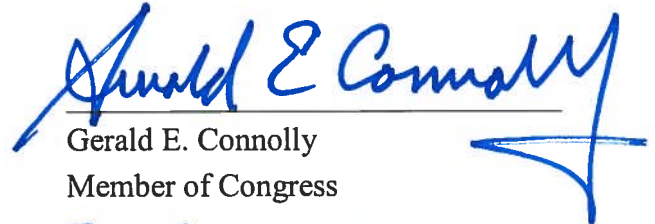
Gene Green  
Member of Congress



Bruce Braley  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



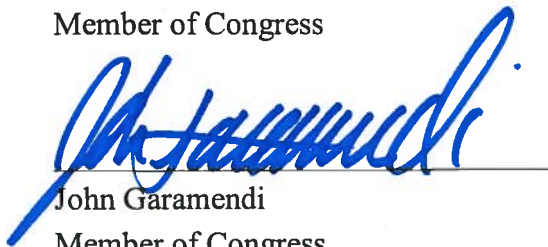
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson  
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



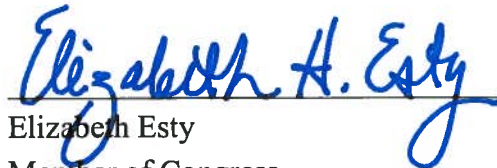
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



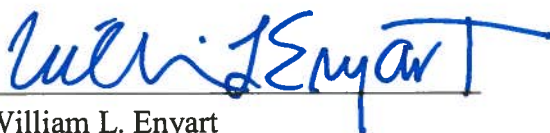
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



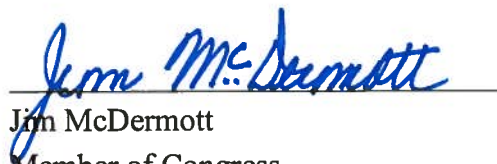
Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress



Elizabeth Esty  
Member of Congress



William L. Enyart  
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress





Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



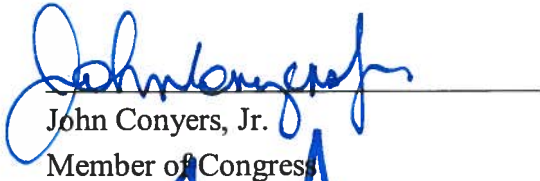
Scott Peters  
Member of Congress



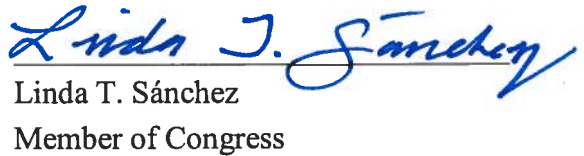
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress



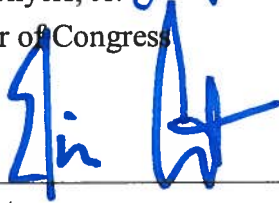
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos  
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Mark Pocan  
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Rubén Hinojosa  
Member of Congress



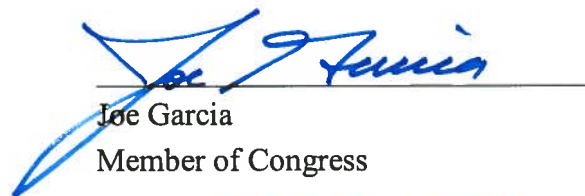
Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



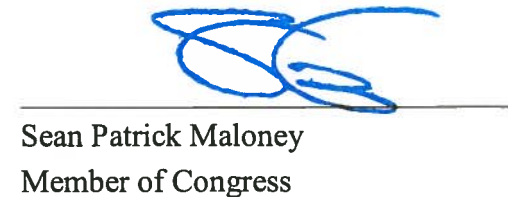
Dan Lipinski  
Member of Congress




Joe Garcia  
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress





Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress


  
Steve Cohen  
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Adam B. Schiff  
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Filemon Vela  
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Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

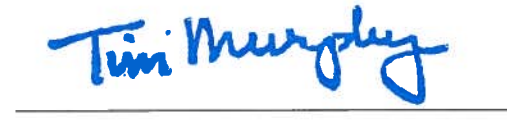
  
William Keating  
Member of Congress

  
Alan Grayson  
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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress


  
Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

  
Rodney Davis  
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Tim Murphy  
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Jim Matheson  
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James Himes  
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