

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 1, 2006

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Specter and Ranking Member Harkin:

As you work to prepare the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide the highest possible funding for Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Thirty years ago, Congress passed IDEA to help states provide all children with disabilities a free, appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. At that time, Congress set a goal of bearing 40 percent of the excess cost of serving these students. Today, that level of commitment remains below 18 percent.

When Congress re-authorized IDEA in 2004, we committed to funding this program at \$16.9 billion for FY07. However, the Administration requested \$10.68 billion for IDEA in its FY07 Budget request.

All children benefit when states and school districts receive the funding they need for IDEA. We appreciate the leadership you have demonstrated and look forward to your continued support of this program.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Hagel". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a thick blue line.A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Dodd". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a thin blue line.

Paul Helly  
Paul Helly

James M. Jeffords

John Z. Sauer

Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Hillary Rodham Clinton

Mark Dayton

P. L. Chafee

Max Baucus

Robert A. Mikulski

Jeff Spin  
Patty Murray

Jack Reed  
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Chuck Schumer

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Robert Menendez

Tom Harkin

Daniel Claitor

Maria Cantwell

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Eric Johnson

John Sumner

Nina Fejtel

Jeanne Kirklin

Dick Durbin

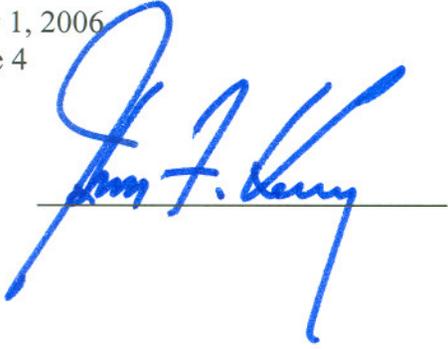
Bill DeWine

Harry Reid

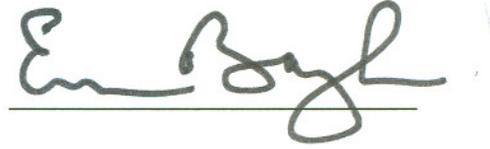
Susan M. Collins

Patrick Leahy

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
The Honorable Tom Harkin  
May 1, 2006  
Page 4



Tom F. Harkin



Eric Boyl