

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to support an increase in funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Grants to States program to \$16.259 billion to put us on the path to full federal funding within ten years. This amount matches the President's FY24 Budget Request.

In 1975, the original version of IDEA was enacted to ensure that all students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education. IDEA provides individual-specific programs, resources, and services for students with a wide range of disabilities, including hearing impairment, autism, language impairment, and learning disabilities. Currently, over 7 million children with disabilities receive special education services under the IDEA. The comprehensive assessment and support services authorized by IDEA help to close the academic achievement gap and prepare students for further education, employment, and independent living.

When Congress passed the predecessor to the IDEA in 1975, it made a pledge to states and school districts that the federal government would pay 40 percent of the costs to educate every child receiving special education and related services. In 2004, the reauthorization of IDEA reiterated this pledge, creating a "glide path" for the federal government to cover 40 percent of Average Per Pupil Expenditure (APPE) by 2011.

For over 40 years, Congress has fallen short of this commitment, with regular appropriations for IDEA Part B never reaching above 19 percent of the national APPE. Fiscal year 2023 funding covered just 12 percent roughly, which falls far short of the federal promise to students with disabilities and their families. This continued shortfall exacerbates the long-running challenges facing states and local school districts, which are faced with limited resources and growing student populations. Significant funding in fiscal year 2024 for IDEA would help relieve budget pressures and provide much needed support for our teachers and school administrators, who are working tirelessly to better the lives of all students in our communities through equal access to quality education.

We urge you to honor our commitment to students with disabilities and support significant funding in fiscal year 2024 for IDEA to put us on the path to full federal funding within ten years. Thank you for your consideration of our request.


Sincerely,



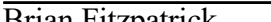
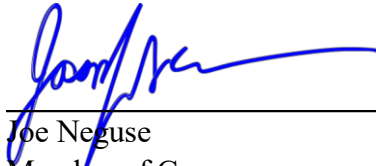
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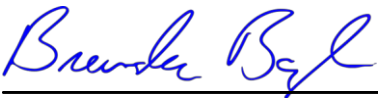
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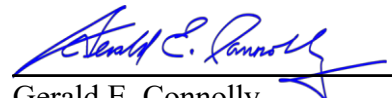
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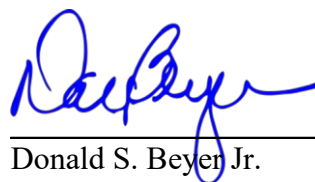
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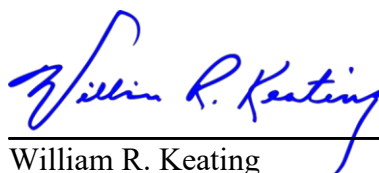
Dina Titus
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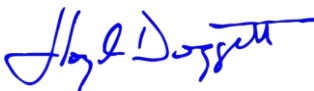
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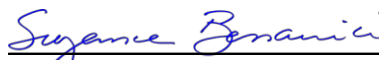
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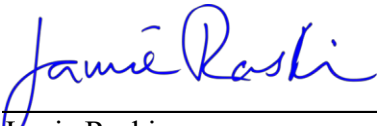
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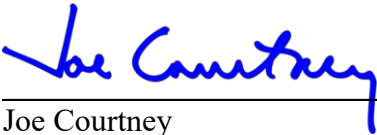
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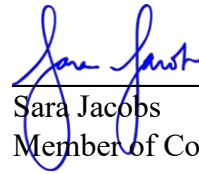
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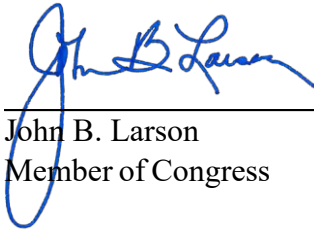
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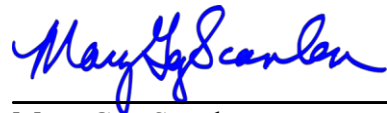
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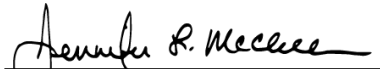
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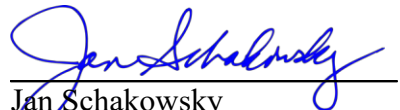
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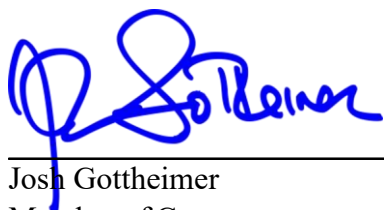
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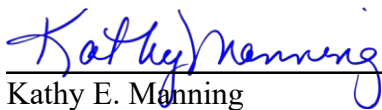
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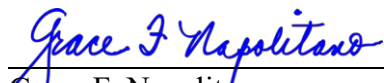
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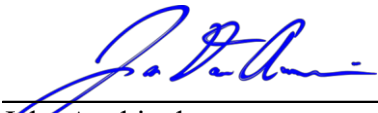
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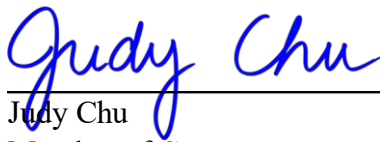
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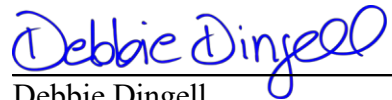
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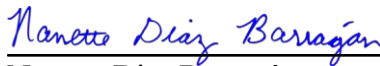
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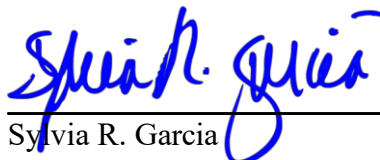
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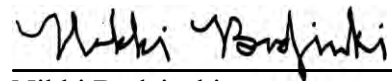
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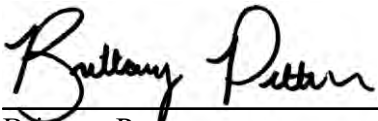
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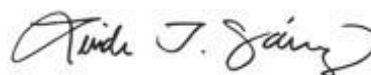
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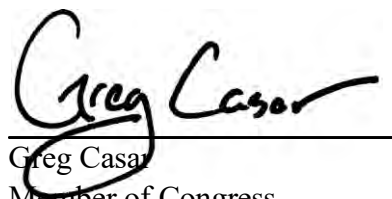
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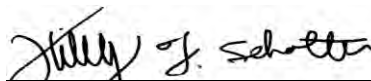
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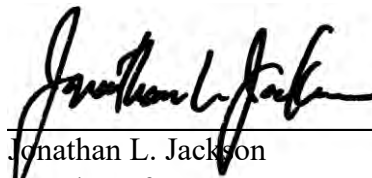
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Lisa C. McClain
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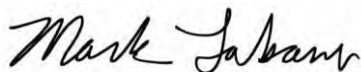
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Val Hoyle
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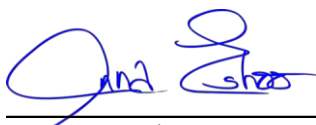
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