

June 26, 2007

Dear Senator,

The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), a not-for-profit organization representing the state directors of special education in the states, the federal territories, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is writing to thank you for your commitment to the education of our youth as evidenced by your support of the Labor-HHS-Education bill.

NASDSE particularly would like to thank you for the \$12.3 billion that the Committee has allocated for the education of individuals with disabilities. This money is of vital importance to states and local school districts as they work to ensure that all students receive a quality education. NASDSE is also immensely grateful for the \$43 million that you restored for the State Personnel Development Grants (SPDGs) under part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This is the only federal program that specifically targets professional development to teachers and related services providers who work with students with disabilities.

Again, thank you for your recognition of the importance of the education of our youth. NASDSE welcomes the opportunity to work with you and your staff to see that this high level of support for students with disabilities is maintained in the final appropriations bill. Please feel free to contact NASDSE's director of government relations, Nancy Reder, at nancy.reder@nasdse.org, (703) 519-3800, ext 334 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bill East, Ed.D