

October 9, 2007

Dear Appropriations Committee Member:

On behalf of the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), the 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 and the Freely Associated States, I am writing to urge that as you move towards conferencing the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill, you retain the \$46 million for the State Personnel Development Grants (SPDGs) contained in the Senate appropriations bill, S. 1710.

The SPDGs were zero-funded in the FY 07 budget with the argument that the grants were forward-funded with FY 06 monies so the money wasn't needed for FY 07. That may have been true, but now, with no forward-funding left, the SPDGs are in dire need of the money provided by S. 1710. These grants provide critical funding to states to assist state education agencies and their partners in reforming and improving early intervention, educational and transitional services systems to improve results for children with disabilities. They are only professional development grants targeted explicitly for special education professionals.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact NASDSE's Deputy Executive Director, Nancy Reder, at [nancy.reder@nasdse.org](mailto:nancy.reder@nasdse.org) or at 703-519-3800, ext. 334.

Sincerely,

Bill East, Ed.D.  
Executive Director