

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0506

May 23, 2025

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2026 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 \$16.661 billion to put us on the path to full federal funding within ten years.

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.

However, for over 50 years, Congress has fallen short of this commitment. Regular appropriations for IDEA Part B have never reached above 19 percent of the national APPE, and in recent years it has leveled off or even been cut. This chronic underfunding exacerbates the long-running challenges facing states and local school districts, which are faced with limited resources and growing populations of high-need students.

Increased funding for IDEA would help relieve budget pressures, support students and families, and provide for teachers and school administrators who are working tirelessly to better the lives

of all students in our communities. We urge you to honor our commitment to students with disabilities by supporting significant IDEA funding in FY26 to put us on the path to full federal funding within ten years. Thank you for considering our request.

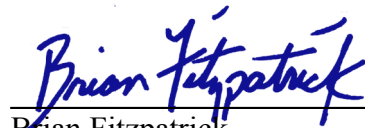
Sincerely,



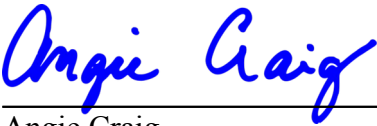
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Angie Craig
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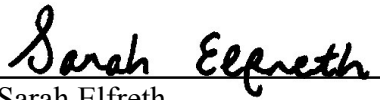
Morgan McGarvey
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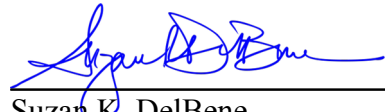
Kevin Mullin
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Brendan F. Boyle
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Sarah Elfreth
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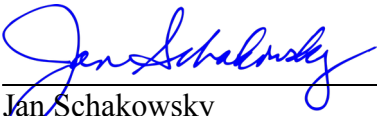
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



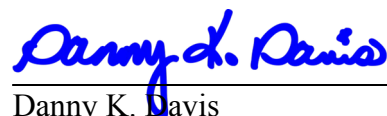
John Garamendi
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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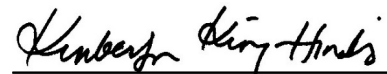
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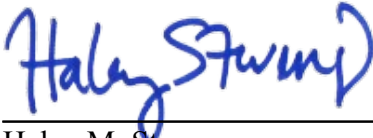
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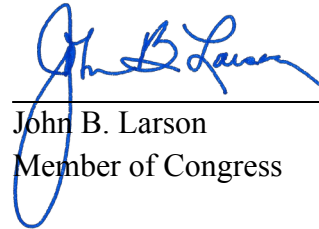
Gregory W. Meeks
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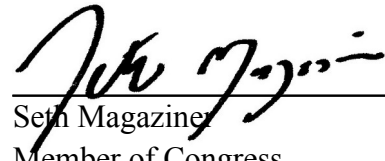
Andrea Salinas
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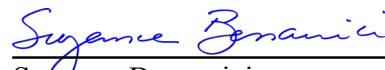
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Ilhan Omar
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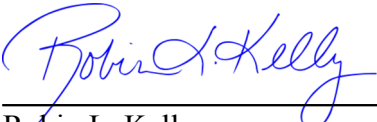
Lateefah Simon
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Ayanna Pressley
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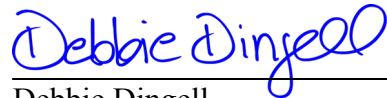
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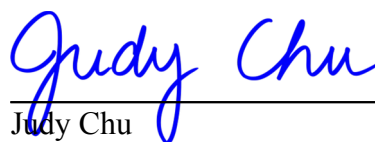
Jahana Hayes
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Shontel M. Brown
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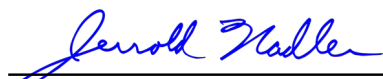
Judy Chu
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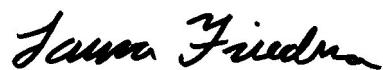
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Laura Friedman
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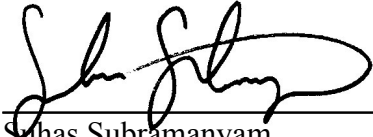
Andrew R. Garbarino
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George Latimer
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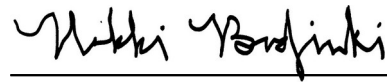
Suhas Subramanyam
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Rick Larsen
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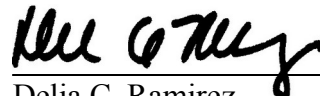
Maxine Waters
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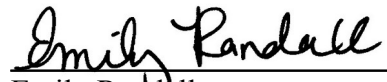
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Doug LaMalfa
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Jared Moskowitz
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J. Luis Correa
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Jimmy Panetta
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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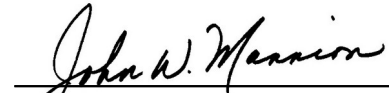
Nanette Diaz Barragán
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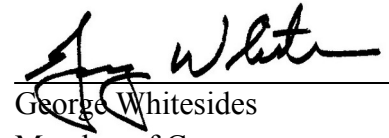
Robert J. Menendez
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Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



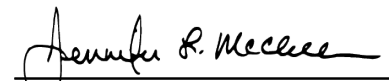
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Maggie Goodlander
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