



January 9, 2026

Eric Bledsoe
Special Assistant
Domestic Policy Council
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Michael Brinkman
Special Assistant
Domestic Policy Council
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Bledsoe and Mr. Brinkman,

On behalf of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities Education Task Force (CCD) and the organizations that we each represent, we are writing to thank you for the opportunity to meet on December 17, 2025 to discuss the educational needs and access opportunities for 9.5 million students with disabilities eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

In follow-up, we wanted to thank you for agreeing to meet with us on a regular basis. We are actively working with your team to schedule quarterly meetings in 2026 and look forward to those discussions. We heard from you that the Administration is deeply committed to ensuring students with disabilities have access to a quality education, thus we write to request that you place that commitment behind support for increased federal investments in IDEA during final Congressional negotiations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and the pending FY 2027 budgeting process. We urge you to convey to Congress that IDEA Part B must be funded at \$16.661 billion. This funding level would place IDEA Part B on a glide path to full funding, consistent with the *IDEA Full Funding Act (HR 2598/S.1277)*, which is supported by 149 House members, including 10 Republicans. Your partnership in urging Congress to provide the necessary funding for special education would be greatly appreciated. Additionally, we appreciated the chance to elevate our shared commitment with the First Lady to protecting children with disabilities in foster care, and we welcome the opportunity to continue exploring policy opportunities.

We also write to reiterate our concerns with three issues we discussed. First, we hope to continue to engage in meaningful discussions regarding our community's ongoing opposition to and pressing concerns with the Administration's recent actions to eliminate and transfer the responsibilities of the Secretary of Education. This includes shifting or reducing Congressionally appropriated funds for IDEA, vocational rehabilitation, Elementary and Secondary Education Act

(ESEA), the Higher Education Act, Carl D. Perkins Act, and/or the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA), which since 2004, have been intentionally aligned to support educational opportunity and access for students with disabilities. We encourage you to take our significant concerns into consideration as you deliberate and promote proposals that, to date, have not factored in the serious negative impacts on 9.5 million children and youth with disabilities, their families, and their educators. Second, while we agree that families should have choice and educational options for their children, exercising choice should not come at the expense of children's civil and educational rights. Together with over 40 national organizations that coalesce on policy issues regarding children with disabilities, we have long advocated that any use of federal funding must require the recipient to meet the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and any other applicable civil rights laws. To date, the proposals supported by the Administration unfortunately do not support such requirements.

Finally, we remind you of the offenses committed by several key players in the Administration, including by those at the top, who continue to use the R-word. As you know, this word is deeply offensive and causes great pain to people with disabilities. We expect more from the leaders of this great nation and encourage you to do all you can to communicate internally and externally that such language must never be used on any platform or for any purpose. We would be happy to provide resources to support such education and communication if that would be helpful. We know that with commitment to children with disabilities and their families comes the obligation to do all we can to support them in both words and actions.

We hope to continue discussing these matters in the coming weeks and look forward to our next meeting.

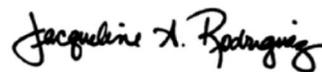
Sincerely,



Joseph Joyce, CEO
Autism Society



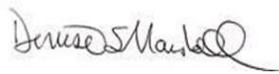
Jennifer Coco, Interim Executive Director
Center for Learner Equity



Jacqueline Rodriguez, CEO
National Center for Learning Disabilities



Chad Rummel, Executive Director
Council for Exceptional Children



Denise Marshall, CEO
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates



Stephanie Smith Lee, Sr. Policy Advisor
National Down Syndrome Congress



Katy Neas, CEO
The Arc of the United States



Marlene Sallo, CEO
National Disability Rights Network