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May 23, 2013

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
2358B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I write to encourage you to increase funding for Part B of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) in the fiscal year (FY) 2014 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

In 1975, Congress mandated educational access and services for students with special needs, with the promise that significant federal investments would support states and school districts in meeting their obligations. The precursor to IDEA, the *Education for All Handicapped Children Act*, authorized federal funding up to 40 percent of the additional cost of educating students with disabilities. Unfortunately, federal contributions have never approached that goal.

Congress did, however, make significant progress in fiscal years 1995 through 2005. Large increases in Part B funding during those years more than doubled the federal contribution to the cost of educating students with disabilities, from 7.8 percent to 18.5 percent. Regrettably, recent years have brought steady decreases in the federal contribution. In FY 2013, the federal government is covering just 14.9 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure – and the Obama administration's FY 2014 proposal again prioritizes pet projects, unauthorized programs, and new initiatives with no track record for success over meeting the needs of students with disabilities.

As our nation struggles with debt levels that have eclipsed the size of the entire U.S. economy, difficult choices must be made. We must stop wasting taxpayer dollars on new and ineffective programs and instead work toward meeting our basic obligation to ensure special needs children are prepared for success after high school.

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
May 23, 2013  
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Thank you for your consideration of this request and continued commitment to this effort. I stand ready to work with you in this invaluable endeavor.

Sincerely,



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JOHN KLINE

Chairman

Committee on Education and the Workforce