

August 24, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins

The Honorable Patty Murray

Senate Committee on

Appropriations

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Collins and Vice Chair Murray,

The undersigned disability organizations thank you for your longstanding commitment to protecting the rights of children and adults with disabilities and respectfully request that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations Act include the legislative text of S. 5046, bipartisan legislation recently approved by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to prohibit implementation of ED's IAAs transferring the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) and other key responsibilities outside ED.

We are grateful for Chair Collins' leadership in introducing this bipartisan legislation and for Vice Chair Murray's steadfast opposition to the Interagency Agreements (IAAs) entered into by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and other Federal agencies. Preserving these functions within ED is essential to ensuring students with disabilities continue to receive coordinated services and benefit from strong Federal oversight and the protections guaranteed under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and other critical disability laws.

Transferring OSERS and other key education programs and offices out of ED will not help students with disabilities learn and will instead increase bureaucracy and disconnect the education of students with disabilities from their non-disabled peers. Moving its functions to a different agency will fragment monitoring and create confusion for stakeholders. OSERS plays a critical role in ensuring students with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education and the supports they need to succeed through postsecondary education and the workforce. Maintaining OSERS ensures continued coordination of IDEA funding, oversight, and technical assistance, activities that collectively support improved outcomes for students with disabilities.

Including the text of S. 5046 in the FY 2027 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Act would provide an immediate and durable solution to prevent implementation of these IAAs while reaffirming Congress's longstanding commitment to supporting individuals with disabilities and their families. It would also provide certainty to students, families, educators, and States as they plan for the upcoming school year and beyond.

Thank you for your steadfast leadership and commitment to protecting educational opportunities for children and adults with disabilities.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Disability Organizations:

PACER Center
National Center for Learning Disabilities
Access Ready, Inc.
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
ASK Resource Center, Inc.
Association for Special Children and Families
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network
Benton Franklin Parent Coalition
Cares of Washington
Cascade Connections
Centerforce
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Community Employment Alliance
Compass Career Solutions
Concerned Citizens
Council for Exceptional Children
Disability Belongs®
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Disability Rights Washington
Encircle Families
Exceptional Children's Assistance Center
Family Connection of South Carolina
Family Voices New Jersey
FIRSTwnc
Formed Families Forward (Virginia)
Hispanic Disability Support SWWA (Pasitos Gigantes)
INCLUDEnyc
Maine Parent Federation
Morningside
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC)
National Family Association for Deaf-Blind
National PLACE
Oklahoma Parents Center
Open Doors for Multicultural Families

Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)

Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership Center

Parent Network of WNY

Parent to Parent of Georgia

Parent to Parent of Miami

Partners4Housing

PAVE

PEAK Parent Center

SPAN Parent Advocacy Network

Spokane Disability Collaborative

Stone Soup Group

Sunrise Services Inc

TASH

Tavon Learning Center

The Arc of King County

The Arc of Snohomish County

The Arc of the United States

The Arc of Whatcom County

The Parents' Place of Maryland

Trillium Employment Services

Vermont Family Network

Village Community Services

Washington Multicultural Services Link