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Folder Title:

IDEA [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act] Legislation

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**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY**

An independent federal agency working with the President and the Congress to increase the inclusion, independence, and empowerment of all Americans with disabilities.

Facsimile TransmissionDate: 10/14/98To: Minyon Moore, Director of Public LiaisonFAX 456-6218From: Marca Bristo, Chairperson

Message: _____

URGENT

*Bruce
Can you
give insight
on this*

Number of pages including cover sheet: 2

1331 F Street, NW, Suite 1050
Washington, DC 20004-1107
202-272-2004
202-272-2074 TT
202-272-2022 Fax
www.ncd.gov

Minyon

**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY**

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URGENT**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Erskine B. Bowles
Chief of Staff to the President

FROM: Marca Bristo *MB*
Chairperson

RE: Livingston Amendment to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

DATE: October 14, 1998

I write to underscore the importance to the disability community of the Administration's continuing opposition to any amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. As you know, Representative Livingston has proposed adding an amendment to IDEA that would make it easier for schools to discipline and expel students with disabilities as part of the budget bill being finalized now. Please use your influence to advocate that the President continue to oppose any weakening amendments to IDEA, a critical civil rights law for children with disabilities and their families. If the Livingston Amendment passes, the children most harmed by the provision will be low-income children and children from minority and rural backgrounds. President Clinton has been committed to improve educational outcomes for all children, and the Livingston amendment would be an unacceptable step backward for our most vulnerable children.

Please convey this message to the President and please thank him for his continuing leadership on behalf of children and adults with disabilities.

cc: John D. Podesta
Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff

Minyon Moore
Assistant to the President and Director of Public Liaison

FILE - DISABILITY



THE COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

1920 ASSOCIATION DRIVE
RESTON, VIRGINIA 20191-1589

(703) 620-3660 (VOICE)
(703) 264-9494 (FAX)
(703) 264-9446 (TTY)
WWW.CEC.SPED.ORG

October 13, 1998

President William Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), a professional association of over 50,000 whose members are dedicated to the special education needs of children with disabilities and/or gifts and talents, is very concerned about any potential amendment to the recently reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997 (IDEA '97) in the area of discipline.

Like other education and parent-based advocacy organizations, CEC's strong concern is safety in the classroom. IDEA '97 provides for just that through the disciplinary provisions mandated in the current law. To amend this law now would start an unraveling process and due process protections for children with disabilities would be undermined. We truly need to give this recently reauthorized statute a chance to work. It is unreasonable to take a carefully crafted law that was passed overwhelmingly in a bipartisan fashion and attempt to attach amendments through the end-of-session budget and appropriations process. We ask you to reject any such attempt.

We sincerely applaud your Administration and its consistent commitment to the educational well-being of children with disabilities. We will continue to work with your Administration, Congressional staff and educational groups in an effort to support the implementation of this very finely tuned law that has provided so much in the last 25 years for children with exceptionalities.

Sincerely,

Nancy D. Safer
Executive Director

cc: Erskine Bowles, Chief of Staff ✓
Bruce Reed, Domestic Policy
Jonathan Young, Public Liaison