# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 15, 2004

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Specter and Harkin:

As you work to prepare the Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide $12.4 billion for Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

In May, the Senate voted 96-1 to authorize $12.4 billion for IDEA in 2005. By voting in favor of this amendment, we made a commitment to meeting our full-funding goals by FY 2011. We must take the first step toward meeting this commitment today.

All children benefit when states and school districts receive the funding they need for IDEA. We appreciate the leadership you have demonstrated and look forward to your continued support of this program.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Senator Chuck Hagel

Senator Chris Dodd

Judd Gregg

Ted Kennedy

Lincoln Chafee

Susan Collins

Olympia Snowe

James M Jeffords

Tom Daschle

Pat Roberts

Norm Coleman

Jack Reed

Patty Murray

John Warner

Tim Johnson

Frank R. Lautenberg

Herb Kohl

Lamar Alexander

Charles Schumer

Elizabeth Dole

John E. Sununu

George Allen

Conrad Burns

George V. Voinovich

Jim Bunning

Max Baucus

Larry Craig

Ron Wyden

Russ Feingold

John Breaux

Jon Kyl

Mary L. Landrieu

E. Benjamin Nelson

Maria Cantwell

Bill Nelson

Barbara A. Mikulski

Chuck Grassley

Tim Johnson

Sandy Rambliss

Carl Levin

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Patrick Leahy

Mark Dayton

Jim F. Kenny

Joe Biden

Byron L. Dorgan

J. Lieberman

Debbie Stabenow

Jeff Merkley

Paul Sarbanes

Barbara Boxer

Daniel K. Akaka

Blanche L. Lincoln

John Edwards

Jay Rockefeller

Mark Pryor