

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2010

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health & Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health & Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

As you prepare the FY2011 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill, we ask that you include the highest funding level possible of \$44 million for the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and \$30.4 million for the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LENDs) program.

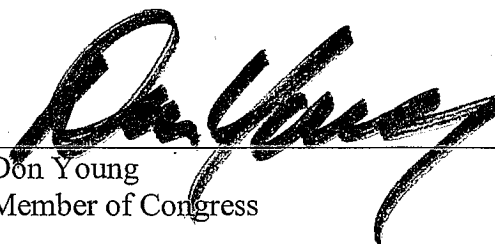
UCEDDs, a network of 67 centers, provide interdisciplinary training, community services, research, technical assistance and information dissemination to the people with developmental disabilities and their families. UCEDDs exist to provide a unique, expert, state and community resource to facilitate independence and full participation in the community for people of all ages living with developmental and other disabilities.


LENDs, a network of 39 programs, were developed to improve the health status of infants, children and adolescents with or at risk for neurodevelopmental and related disabilities and their families. This is accomplished through the interdisciplinary training of professionals for leadership roles in the health and related care disciplines, continuing education, technical assistance, research and consultation. The program focuses on the special health care needs of children with a wide range of neurodevelopmental, metabolic and genetic disorders. In short supply are appropriately trained professionals prepared to meet the growing needs of children with autism, Down Syndrome and genetic disorders


We thank you for your previous support of these critical programs. We look forward to working with you on ways to support the approximately 4,000,000 individuals who live with developmental disabilities in the United States.

Sincerely,


Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

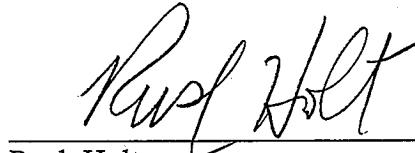

Don Young
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress


Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

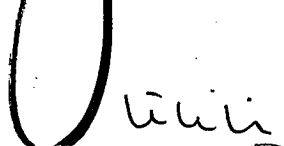

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



David Loebsack
Member of Congress


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

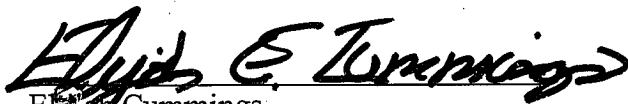

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


Gregorio Sablan
Member of Congress


Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress


Robert C. Scott
Member of Congress


Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress


Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress