

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2006

The Honorable Ralph Regula  
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 David Obey  
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 Regula and Congressman Obey:

As your Subcommittee prepares to mark up the FY 2007 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill, we ask that the House include the highest funding level possible for the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LENDs) program.

UCEDDs, a network of 64 centers, provide interdisciplinary training, community services, research, technical assistance and information dissemination to the developmentally disabled and their families. UCEDDs exist in every state 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 35 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 with developmental disabilities in the United States.

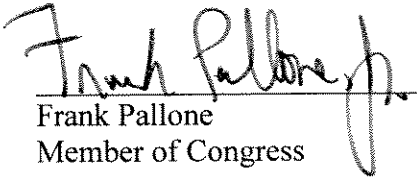
Sincerely,

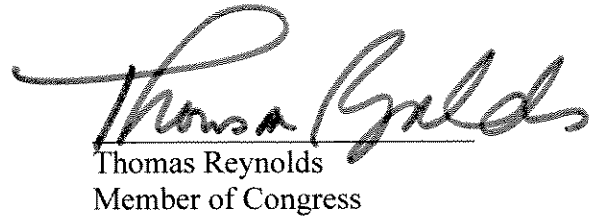


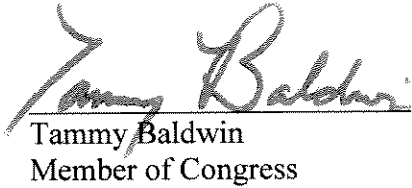
Jim Ramstad, M.C.  
Co-Chair, Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus

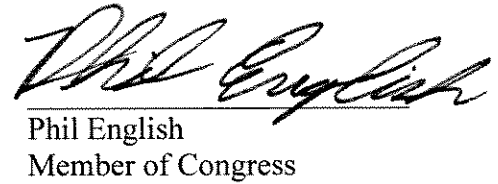


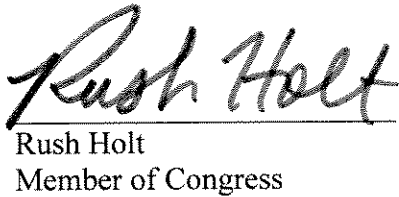
Jim Langevin, M.C.  
Co-Chair, Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus

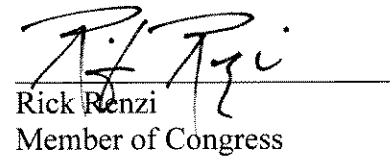
  
Frank Pallone  
Member of Congress

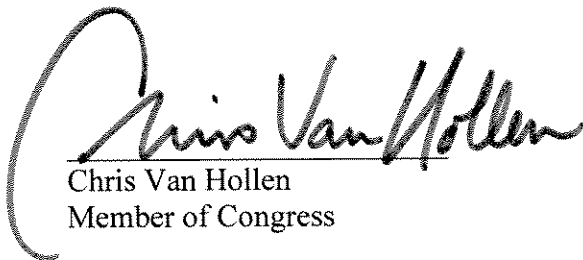
  
Thomas Reynolds  
Member of Congress

  
Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress

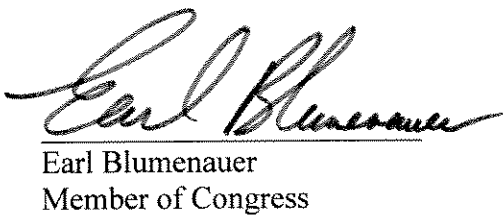
  
Phil English  
Member of Congress

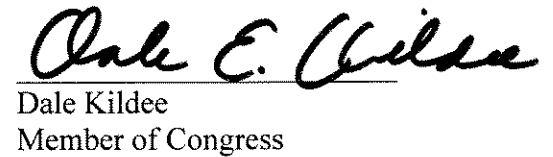
  
Rush Holt  
Member of Congress

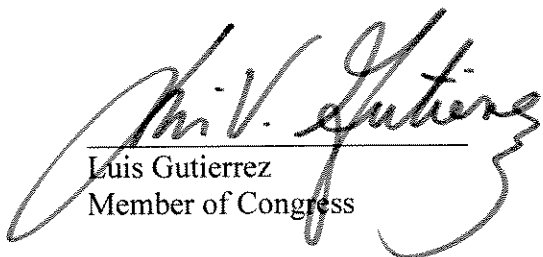
  
Rick Renzi  
Member of Congress

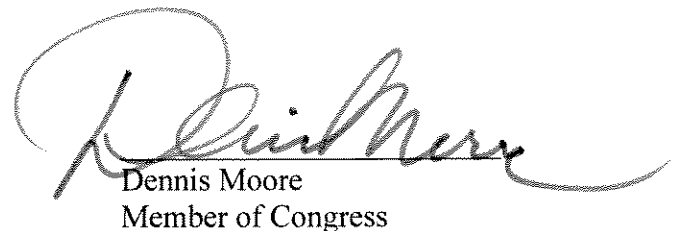
  
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress


  
Marsha Blackburn  
Member of Congress

  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

  
Dale Kildee  
Member of Congress


  
Luis Gutierrez  
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Dennis Moore  
Member of Congress



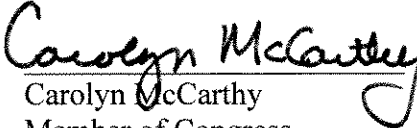
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William Jefferson  
Member of Congress




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Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress




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Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress




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Michael McNulty  
Member of Congress



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Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

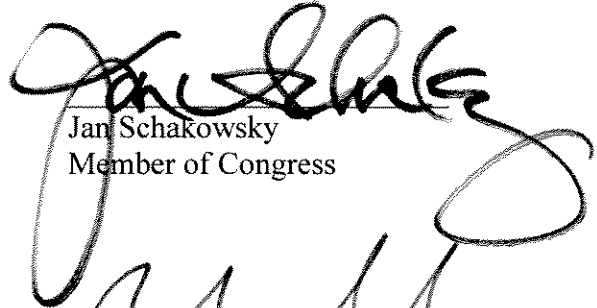


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Major Owens  
Member of Congress


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Mike Capuano  
Member of Congress



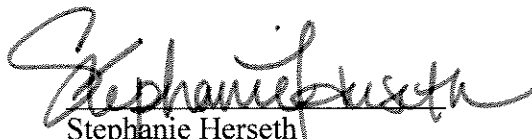
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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress




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Bernie Sanders  
Member of Congress




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Stephanie Herseth  
Member of Congress



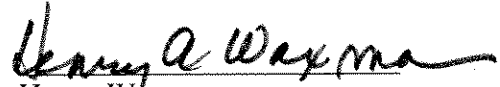
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Julia Carson  
Member of Congress



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Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



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Henry Waxman  
Member of Congress

*Chip Pickering*

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Chip Pickering  
Member of Congress