



ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES  
RESEARCH. EDUCATION. SERVICE

November 18, 2009

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Enzi:

On behalf of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), I write to express our deep gratitude and strong support for Rosa's Law (S. 2781). AUCD promotes and supports a national network of interdisciplinary centers on disabilities. The members of AUCD represent every U.S. state and territory and include sixty seven University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs), thirty nine Interdisciplinary Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Programs and nineteen Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (DDRCs).

AUCD believes that the seemingly small change proposed by the bill is a monumental step toward dismantling archaic and demeaning stereotypes about people with disabilities. The disability community has long pursued the goal of changing public attitudes through the use of "person-first" language. People with disabilities want to be seen as people first, defined by who they are, not by their disabilities. Passage of Rosa's Law would confirm Congress's commitment to improving the lives of people with disabilities by bringing the language of key laws into alignment with their intent.

AUCD strongly supports your plan and the efforts underway in Congress to remove harmful labels from our nation's laws, and looks forward to working with you in driving this reform forward.

Sincerely,

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