

Autism Society of America 6110 Executive Blvd, Suite 305 Rockville, Maryland 20852

July 14th, 2023

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen 730 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 The Honoarable Jared Huffman 2445 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Van Hollen and Representative Huffman,

The Autism Society of America writes to thank you for introducing the IDEA Full Funding Act. This legislation would ensure Congress fulfills its commitment to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Under IDEA, the federal government committed to pay 40 percent of the additional average per pupil expenditure for special education; however, current funding is at less than 13 percent. With the IDEA Full Funding Act requiring gradual increases in IDEA spending, a greater opportunity will be provided for students with disabilities to have equal access to a well-rounded, high-quality public education.

The Autism Society is the nation's oldest and largest grassroots organization representing children and adults with Autism. Ensuring free and appropriate education for students with Autism and other disabilities is one of our highest legislative goals.

Thank you again for the introduction of this bill. The Autism Society stands ready to help move this bill through Congress. Please contact Kim Musheno, Vice President of Public Policy at the Autism Society of America (kmusheno@autism-society.org or 800-328-8476) for more information and assistance.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Banks

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President and CEO