

July 17, 2023

The Honorable Nancy Mace
1728 Longworth Bldg.
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Anne Kuster
2201 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

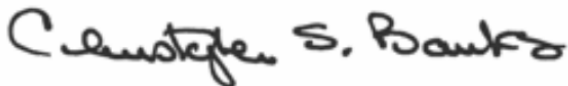
Dear Congresswoman Kuster and Mace,

The Autism Society of America writes to thank you for introducing the Preparing and Retaining All (PARA) Educators Act. This legislation would ensure that paraeducators receive the support they need to keep them in the classroom and educate students who benefit from their aid, which is an issue many of our families and their children across the country face. Despite their importance in our classrooms, paraeducators continue to be underpaid and undervalued in America's education system. However, without their aid, many students with Autism struggle to access the curriculum. This legislation would provide new career opportunities and increase support for paraeducators by directing funding to states and school districts.

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
President and CEO