

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations that support improved outcomes for students with learning disabilities, we urge you to **support Senator Cassidy's Title II-Part A amendment to the Every Child Achieves Act of 2015.**

Senator Cassidy's amendment adds an allowable use within Title II Part A so that states and school districts can better meet the needs of America's 2.4 million students with learning disabilities, who represent 42% of students receiving special education services, largest disability category of students. Sen. Cassidy's amendment fills a void in our educational system by enabling educators, specialized instructional support personnel, and school leaders to receive professional development to better understand, identify and address the early indicators of learning disabilities, including dyslexia.

This is especially important for students with learning disabilities, because while students with learning disabilities often exhibit similar early signs of their challenges, they often go unaddressed. As a result, these students may not receive interventions, if at all, until much later in their elementary school years. By that time, they are behind their peers, struggling to catch up. Additionally, because students with learning disabilities spend the majority of their day in the general education classroom, general educators need access to professional development to support their needs. By addressing these needs early, supports can be provided to minimize challenges later.

Senator Cassidy's amendment puts the decision to use professional development funding to support students with learning disabilities, like dyslexia, solely in the hands of states and local school districts. The Cassidy Amendment simply includes addressing the needs of students with learning disabilities among the menu of options states and school districts can choose from.

On behalf of the millions of children with learning disabilities, we urge you to support Senator Cassidy's Title II Part A amendment.

Sincerely,

National Center for Learning Disabilities
Learning Disabilities Association
National Association of School Psychologists
International Dyslexia Association
School Social Work Association of America