Support IDEA funding in FY12 Appropriations Bill

June 6, 2011

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in calling for the highest possible funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2012.

The continued underfunding of IDEA – in combination with current state fiscal crises – forces school districts to either raise taxes or dip into general education budgets to make up for the shortfall, thereby cutting other critical services. Our nation’s public schools and the students they serve cannot afford to wait any longer for the relief they so desperately need. We need to act this year to take pressure off of state and local budgets already stretched thin and free up funding for other priorities.

The attached letter identifies the need to make IDEA funding a priority in fiscal year 2012. We urge you to join us in ensuring that this important program and the students it serves are supported by sufficient federal resources.

Please contact Alison MacDonald at alison_macdonald@shaheen.senate.gov or 224-2841 or Meg Benner at meg_benner@blumenthal.senate.gov or 224-2823 with questions or to sign on.

The deadline for signatures is Thursday, June 9, 2011.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator