

Cogswell-Macy Coalition

June 18, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Ranking
Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education, and Related
Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

By email:

Chair DeLauro - Philip Tizzani
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Chair Murray - Mark Laisch
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Ranking Member Cole - Kathryn
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Ranking Member Blunt – Emily
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Dear Chair DeLauro, Ranking Member Cole, Chair Murray, and Ranking Member Blunt:

We write regarding the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. We offer requests that will help build our education system to better serve deaf, blind, and deafblind students.

Deaf, blind, and deafblind students can achieve high academic success when they:

- Are identified early,
- Receive appropriate services and supports from professionals with specialized training and expertise, and
- Are placed in educational settings that support their language, communication, and access needs.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is integral to the support of these activities. However, currently IDEA is woefully underfunded in all areas. This results in a lack of:

- Early support and training for parents and babies, thereby negatively impacting children's language and communication development,

- Support for specialized educational services and settings, thereby preventing students from gaining full access to educational material and settings, and
- Personnel who are trained in deaf, blind, or deafblind education, thereby keeping students from reaching their functional and academic goals.

We respectfully request funding of, at minimum:

- Part B Section 611 (Grants to States): \$15.5 billion
- Part B Section 619 (Preschool Grants): \$598 million
- Part C (Grants to serve infants and toddlers): \$732 million
- Part D (National Activities) Personnel Preparation: \$300 million
- Part D (National Activities) Technical Assistance and Dissemination: \$49 million

Coming out of the pandemic, the needs for our children and families are greater than ever. We hope you look favorably upon these requests so that our children can take their rightful place in the world as successful, productive members of society.

The Cogswell-Macy Coalition is a collaboration of professional, consumer, and parent organizations that advocates for the well-being of deaf, blind, and deafblind students and their families. It is named for Alice Cogswell, the first deaf student to be formally educated in the United States, and Anne Sullivan Macy, the teacher of Helen Keller.

Thank you for your consideration.

On behalf of the Cogswell-Macy Coalition,

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired
 American Council of the Blind
 American Foundation for the Blind
 American Society for Deaf Children
 Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
 Council of Schools and Services for the Blind
 National Association of the Deaf
 National Coalition on Deafblindness
 National Family Association for Deaf-Blind
 The National Intervener & Advocate Association
 The New York Institute for Special Education

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