



National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.

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March 21, 2008

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Murphy
U.S. House of Representatives
322 Canon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell and Representative Murphy:

On behalf of the National Association of State Directors of Special Education and our members, the state directors of special education in the states, territories, federal entities and the Freely Associated States, I am writing to thank you for introducing H.R. 5613 which will extend certain moratoria and impose additional moratoria on Medicaid regulations through April 1, 2009.

These Medicaid regulations promulgated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are of grave concern to our members. While we are specifically concerned about the regulations that have a direct impact on children with disabilities and their families, including the elimination of administrative claiming and reimbursement for transportation costs associated with transporting students with disabilities to school where they receive Medicaid services as part of their IEPs, we are also concerned about the huge shift in Medicaid costs from the federal government to state and local government. The programs that CMS no longer wants to fund are essential to our nation's well being and should continue to be part of the joint funding mechanism established by the Medicaid program. We are grateful that you have recognized the massive implication of these regulations to states, local school districts and local government and low income individuals, especially those with disabilities and their families.

We look forward to continuing to work with both you and your staff on this important issue. If you would like to call upon us to help with this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact NASDSE's director of Government Relations, Deputy Executive Director Nancy Reder at nancy.reder@nasdse.org or 703-519-3800 ext.334.

Sincerely,

Bill East, Ed.D.
Executive Director