



March 2, 2017

## EDUCATION ADVOCACY ALERT

### **ASK YOUR SENATORS TO VOTE NO ON HJ RESOLUTION 57 TO REPEAL ESSA ACCOUNTABILITY REGULATIONS**

Early in February, the US House of Representatives passed [HJ Resolution 57](#) under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to repeal the accountability regulations under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This bill is now before the Senate and we are hearing that it may come up for a vote as early as next week. If it also passes the Senate, these regulations will be repealed and will have a detrimental effect on students with disabilities.

Please call your Senators and tell them why you NEED strong accountability regulations in ESSA: to hold states accountable for ensuring that ALL students (including students with disabilities) have access to a fair, equitable, high-quality education.

Some talking points:

- Introduce yourself, emphasize that you are a parent (or grandparent, other family member or individual with a disability), and that you are a CONSTITUENT.
- Ask your Senator to vote NO on HJ Resolution 57 to repeal the ESSA accountability regulations.
- Congress passed ESSA with bipartisan support and they should also support these regulations, which provide guardrails for state flexibility and clarify ambiguities in the law.
- Under ESSA and the existing regulations, states are already given a tremendous amount of flexibility in designing their accountability systems. These regulations are designed to ensure that state plans for ESSA hold schools and districts accountable for the academic performance of students with disabilities.

(For more information on ESSA state plans, please see helpful resources developed by our colleagues at the National Down Syndrome Congress at <https://www.ndscenter.org/sample-comments-for-state-essa-plans/>).