

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 26, 2019

The Honorable Bobby Scott  
Chairman  
House Committee on Education and Labor  
2176 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Education and Labor  
2101 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Foxx,

Thank you for your dedication to ensuring that our Nation's children are afforded the quality education that they deserve. We write to you today to ask for the House Committee on Education and Labor to swiftly consider legislation to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

As the parents of children with special needs, we know first-hand the impact that special education teachers and paraprofessionals have on the growth and development of our children. With adequate resources in our classrooms, children can be given equal opportunities to grow no matter how they learn.

In our home state of Minnesota, local school districts are bearing the burden of the federal government's failure to fund special education. The lack of adequate pay for our teachers, neglected upgrades to school infrastructure, and continued levies can be traced back to Congress' inability to uphold the promise of fully funding IDEA.

Minnesota's schools are receiving as little as 8-15 percent funding<sup>1</sup> for special education, instead of the additional 40 percent that the federal government has promised. This often means school districts across the state are forced to make difficult decisions on budget cuts as dollars are diverted from general funds to special education.

We appreciate your attention to this matter. We hope that this Committee can continue to work across the aisle to pursue what is right for our children.

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<sup>1</sup>Star Tribune, "Minnesota Schools Facing Crisis Level in Special Education Funding" January 19, 2019. <http://www.startribune.com/minnesota-schools-facing-crisis-level-special-education-funding-gap/504601631/>

Sincerely,



Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress