

*State of New Mexico*  
**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**

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November 17, 2023

Senator Bernie Sanders  
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20510

Representative Virginia Foxx  
House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
US House of Representatives  
2176 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Bernie Sanders and members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; and Chairwoman Virginia Foxx and members of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce,

The New Mexico Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) is writing to express support for the IDEA Full Funding Act, S. 2217 in the Senate and H.R. 4519 in the House.

This bipartisan, bicameral legislation, introduced on July 10, 2023 by Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Representative Jered Huffman (D-CA), would finally fulfill Congress' initial promise to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by fiscal year 2033. The federal government committed to paying 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditures for special education under IDEA, however, that promise has not been met, and current funding under IDEA is less than 13 percent today. We are asking Congress to begin providing the level of dedicated funding promised with the passing of IDEA as this federal funding is needed to support state efforts to ensure all students with disabilities receive an excellent education and graduate ready for the next stage in their life, whether that is college or a career.

We appreciate the federal government's support of initiatives that increase educational opportunities for all New Mexico students. Thank you for considering New Mexico's proposal.

Sincerely,

Representative G. Andrés Romero  
Chair

Senator William P. Soules  
Vice Chair