



December 7, 2015

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the National Consortium for Physical Education for Individuals with Disabilities (NCPEID), the non-profit national organization dedicated to promoting research, professional preparation, service delivery and advocacy of physical education for individuals with disabilities, I write to urge your support for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The ESSA will not only reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), it will also recognize physical education as a part of a “well-rounded education” for all students, including those with disabilities.

Please support the ESSA bill passed out of the House of Representatives that includes physical education as part of the definition of a "well-rounded education" (formerly referred to as "core subjects"). The ESSA not only recognizes physical education as a critical component of the school curriculum for *all* children, but also provides a means by which we can positively impact students' academic achievement, mental health and physical health, and build a healthier American citizenry. In addition, the recognition of physical education in this manner brings general education and special education legislation in line with one another and allows states more flexibility in accessing the Title IV's block grant program as they build safe and healthy schools and provide a well-rounded education program.

The reauthorization of ESEA is overdue and we, NCPEID, appreciate the work and time that have moved forward this thoughtfully constructed bill. The NCPEID urges you to vote in favor of the ESSA and pass this important legislation.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Suzanna Rocco Dillon".

Suzanna Rocco Dillon, Ph.D., CAPE
President of the National Consortium for Physical Education for Individuals with Disabilities