



March 3, 2017

Dear Senator:

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) writes in strong opposition of H.J. Res 57 and S.J. Res 25 to rescind the accountability regulations under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

NDRN is the non-profit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) and Client Assistance Program (CAP) systems for individuals with disabilities. The P&A and CAP systems were established by the United States Congress to protect the rights of people with disabilities and their families through legal support, advocacy, referral, and education. P&As and CAPs are in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the US Virgin Islands), and there is a P&A and CAP affiliated with the Native American Consortium which includes the Hopi, Navajo and San Juan Southern Paiute Nations in the Four Corners region of the Southwest. Collectively, the P&A and CAP Network is the largest provider of legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the United States.

NDRN believes that the ESSA accountability regulations are critical for meaningful implementation of ESSA. The regulations clarify the statutory language in ESSA, build upon ESSA's flexibility for school improvement and provide a clarified role for families, educators and stakeholders to share in the implementation process. Perhaps, most importantly, the final regulations maintain the civil rights legacy of the law by meaningfully including all students, including students with disabilities.

ESSA was a successful bi-partisan effort to improve education for all students built upon the frame of accountability. To rescind these regulations would not only be a disservice to the spirit of ESSA and diminish the efficacy of the law, but would also serve to undermine the equity of educational opportunity for all students, including students with disabilities.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Amanda Lowe, Senior Public Policy Analyst at Amanda.lowe@ndrn.org or at 202-408-9514, ext. 101. Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Curt Decker
Executive Director