**Education Protection & Advocacy Bill (Protection and Advocacy in Education Act) Talking Points**

**Talking Points**

* Students with disabilities and their families face numerous obstacles at school, including, low expectations, inconsistent service delivery and disproportionate discipline practices which too often result in poor education outcomes for youth with disabilities thus perpetuating the cycle of poverty.
* According to the 2017–18 Civil Rights Data Collection, even though students with disabilities served by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) represented 13% of all public school students, 80% of students who were subjected to physical restraint were students with disabilities and 77% of students subjected to seclusion were students with disabilities.
* In the 2018-2019 school year, of the millions of students receiving services under IDEA, only 73 percent graduated with a high school diploma which is below the graduation rate for students without disabilities.
* P&A advocates and attorneys work with families and schools to ensure students with disabilities receive the supports and services they are entitled to receive. The demand for assistance is high; in 2020, the P&As collectively worked on thousands of individual cases and systemic work that impacted tens of thousands of children and families.
* Introduced by Representative Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) in the 116th Congress, the Protection and Advocacy in Education Act would provide dedicated grant funding for the P&A Network to protect and advocate for the rights of students with disabilities.
* This is a cost-effective and efficient way to achieve positive outcomes for students with disabilities and their families. Because the P&A system already exists, new funding would be directed towards the hiring of advocates and staff to provide this needed advocacy rather than the establishment of a new administrative structure, computers or rent.