



## **IDEA Full Funding Act (S.1277/H.R. 2596)**

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### **Legislative Request**

Please cosponsor the IDEA Full Funding Act (S. 1277/H.R. 2596), which if passed will put the federal government on track to fulfill its promise to fund 40% of the average per-pupil cost to provide special education over the next 10 years.

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### **Background**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was signed into law in 1975, and guaranteed students with disabilities a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment. The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is responsible for distributing funds appropriated by Congress, and state and local educational agencies are expected to provide the rest of the funding. When IDEA was originally passed, the federal government promised to fund 40% of the average per-pupil expenditure, but they have consistently fallen short on this promise. Congress has consistently appropriated about 13% of the average per-pupil expenditure since 1980.

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### **Bill Summary**

Introduced by Senator Van-Hollen (D – MD) and Representative Huffman (D – CA), this bill will establish a glidepath for Congress to follow over the next 10 years to fulfill their promise of providing 40% of the average per pupil expenditure for special education costs.

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### **Impact**

Fulfilling the promise of full federal funding will create stronger and more robust special education programs in the states. More students with disabilities will have access to accommodations, specialized instruction, and other related services. Additionally, educational agencies and special educators will have access to more resources and supports to better provide FAPE for students with disabilities. These students in turn will have better educational and economic outcomes in the future, leading to success in the workplace and participation in community life.

**For more information, please contact our policy team at [policy@ndss.org](mailto:policy@ndss.org).**