

October 18, 2022

Majority Leader Chuck Schumer  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader Mitch McConnell  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to thank the House for passing the Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower (RISE) Act as included in the Mental Health Matters Act (H.R. 7780). We also urge the Senate to take up and pass the bipartisan RISE Act (S. 2550/H.R. 4786) so that college students with disabilities can better access needed disability services.

College students with disabilities are often saddled with a maze of new and often costly requirements to "prove" that they have a disability to access disability services. Many students are forced to pay out-of-pocket (\$500-\$2,500) for new tests to demonstrate they indeed have a disability, despite their well-documented history of having an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan in K-12 education. The RISE Act would allow this well-documented history of having an IEP or 504 Plan to provide sufficient evidence of a disability when seeking accommodations in college, easing this burden for students.

Additionally, the bill would authorize more funding for a technical assistance center that provides students and families with information about available disability services and offers faculty training and resources on best practices to support students with disabilities. Finally, the bill would require colleges and universities to report on the number of students with disabilities served, the accommodations provided, and the outcomes for these students so we can have a better sense of how these institutions serve this student population.

Families and students too often find it challenging to find information about the types of disability services offered at a college or university while also navigating burdensome and sometimes duplicative processes to demonstrate their disability. The RISE Act expands access for students with disabilities to ensure they have what they need to succeed. Again, we thank the House for passing this critically important bill and urge the Senate to swiftly take it up and pass it into law. Please contact Lindsay Kubatzky at [LKubatzky@ncld.org](mailto:LKubatzky@ncld.org) should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Psychological Association  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
Autism Society of America

Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
CAST  
Center for Learner Equity  
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates  
Decoding Dyslexia  
Education Law Center  
Eye to Eye  
Juvenile Law Center  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE)  
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
PAVE  
Show and Tell  
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network  
The Advocacy Institute  
The Arc of the United States  
The Parents' Place of MD

CC

Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-WA)  
Ranking Member Richard Burr (R-NC)  
Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA)  
Ranking Member Virginia Foxx (R-NC)