

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 17, 2025

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Secretary of Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20002

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
1650 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Secretary McMahon and Director Vought:

We write to you to share our deep opposition to your decision to lay off federal employees dedicated to the education and support of students with disabilities and their families. We demand that you immediately reverse course and rescind the termination notices that were sent to these workers.

On Friday, October 10th, 2025, remaining staff in the Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) appear to have been illegally fired. This includes employees in the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the Rehabilitative Services Administration (RSA), as well as the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)¹. These firings, along with other decisions you have made that directly undermine special education, will have a devastating impact on the more than 7.5 million students with disabilities across the country and their families just one month before the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Decimating these offices threatens accountability for special education and vocational rehabilitation funds, as well as the civil rights Congress has enshrined in federal law, at a time when schools nationwide are already struggling to meet the needs of students and when people with disabilities continue to face barriers to employment. Federal employees at OSERS play a key role in ensuring that federal dollars are spent appropriately and effectively to support students with disabilities. Without them, there will be no oversight to ensure that physically disabled students, blind/deaf children and teenagers, as well as students with dyslexia, autism, and other disabilities are receiving the free and appropriate public education they are guaranteed under the IDEA. Staff answer calls directly from families around the country seeking help in understanding their rights under federal disability law and support when those rights may have been violated. Because of your decision, those calls and questions will now go unanswered.

These reckless terminations are just another in a line of actions by your administration that threaten the rights that individuals with disabilities have fought long and hard for. We urge you to immediately rescind your plans to wrongly fire employees at the agencies listed above so that they can continue working to ensure that every family, no matter where they live or their income, has access to an education that will set them up for a successful future regardless of their child's disability.

¹ <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2025/10/14/ed-department-lays-off-nearly-all-special-education-staff/31676/>

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



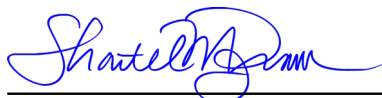
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



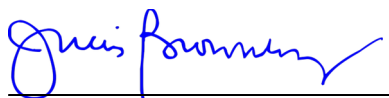
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



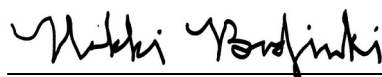
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



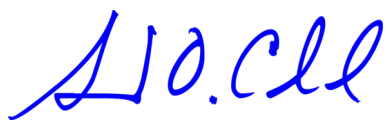
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



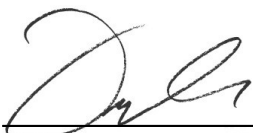
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



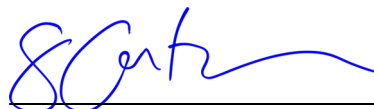
Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



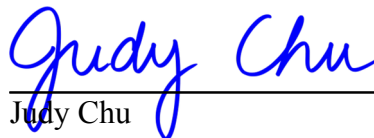
Ed Case
Member of Congress



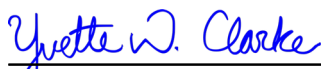
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



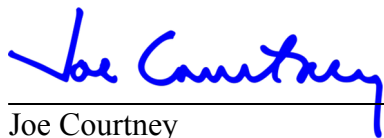
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



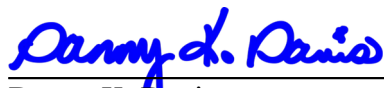
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



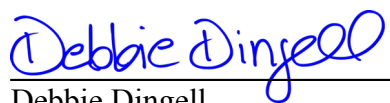
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



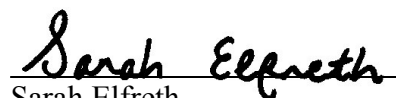
Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



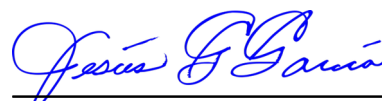
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



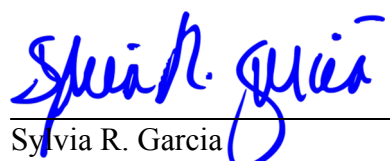
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. García
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



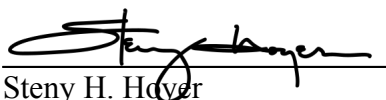
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



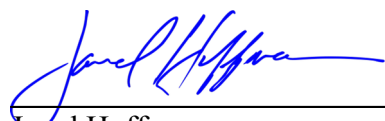
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



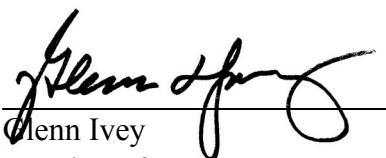
Tim Himes
Member of Congress



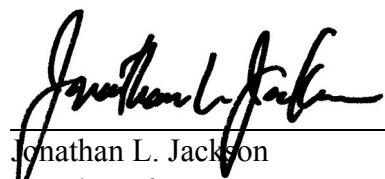
Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



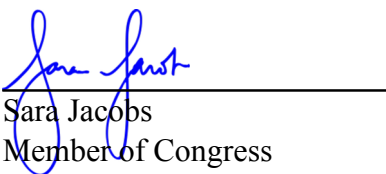
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



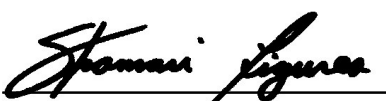
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



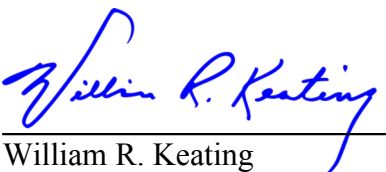
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



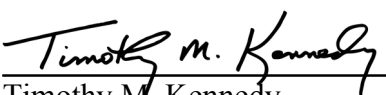
Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



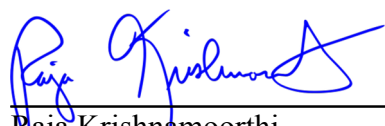
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



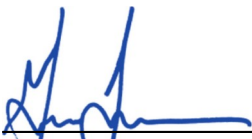
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



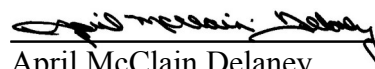
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



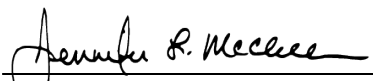
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



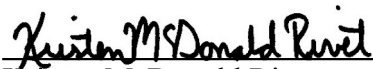
April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



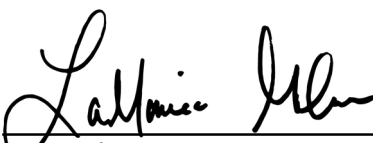
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



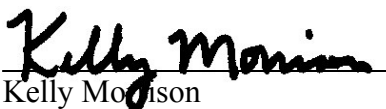
Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



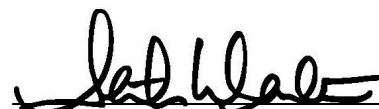
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



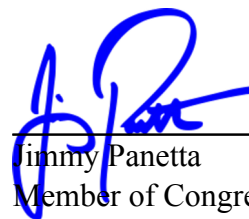
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



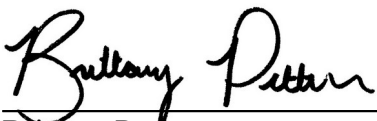
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



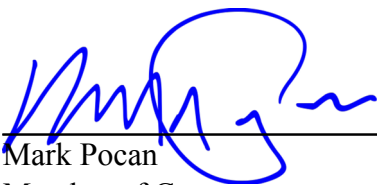
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



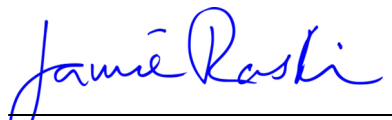
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



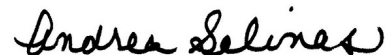
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



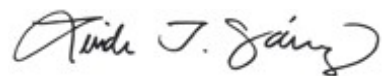
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



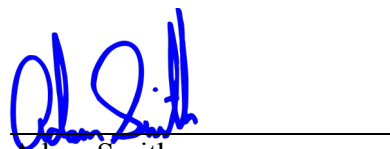
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



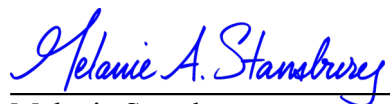
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



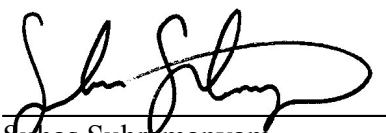
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



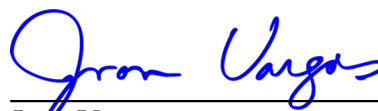
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



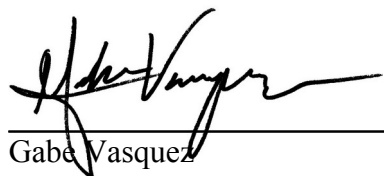
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



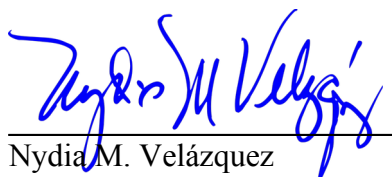
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



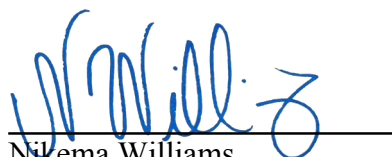
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress