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March 20, 2020

Dear CEC Members,

Special education teachers are asked to adapt every day—there's no doubt that what you are being asked to adapt to right now stretches that ask to unimaginable limits. For all that you are continuing to do for our students, I thank you. This week has seen CEC embarking on new journeys to support you: new webinars, opening up resources, and offering free membership to all in our community who need help.

Yesterday, a stimulus bill was introduced into the Senate that contained provisions for education. One of those provisions directs the Secretary of Education to come back in 30 days with a list of waivers needed for Congress to provide under IDEA and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to assist the special education community during this pandemic.

Today, CEC President Jennifer Lesh provided a [response to the stimulus bill](#) that stresses the need for relief of administrative burden and flexibility so that you can continue to do what's best for your students, and **you need that relief now**. In addition, we stressed our commitment to IDEA and the importance of ensuring that whatever changes are made to assist you in this time are strictly limited to dealing with the COVID disruption. **We do not want any action by Congress to undo the right children with exceptionalities have to a free, appropriate public education.** In addition, we stressed the need for additional funding to support education services during this time.

In the coming days, we will monitor this bill's progress in both the House and the Senate. In addition, we will engage with the Department of Education to provide input so that any waivers that are enacted to provide you relief are in the best interest of our community and happen as quickly as possible. We will seek your input and, when need, call for action to support our efforts.

In the meantime, please continue to do the next best things for your students. And take care of yourself. I know we will get through this together.

Best,

Chad Rummel
CEC Executive Director