

July 20, 2010

The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy
2346 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Representative McCarthy:

On behalf of The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), which represents the state directors of special education in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Agency, the federal territories and the Freely Associated States, I am writing to thank you for introducing H.R. 5628, the "Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools Act," which would eliminate the use of corporal punishment in schools.

It is important that school personnel be trained in other, more effective approaches in dealing with students who present challenging behavior. These approaches – such as positive behavior supports and mental health supports in schools – would give school personnel more effective control over their classrooms as well as helping students learn more self control. All children have a right to a safe educational environment and school personnel have the right to feel safe and protected in school as well, which they can if they are properly trained and supported.

Again, NASDSE applauds the introduction of this important legislation. We look forward to working with your office on passage of this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact NASDSE's Director of Government, Nancy Reder at nancy.reder@nasdse.org or at 703-519-3800, ext. 334.

Sincerely,

Bill East, Ed.D
Executive Director