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**For immediate release**

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## **CEC Calls on Congress to Raise Spending Caps and End Sequestration** *Cuts could resume on Oct. 1, putting funding for special and gifted education, education research, early childhood education programs and more at serious risk*

**Washington, D.C., Sept. 17, 2015** -- Just weeks before federal funding runs out and draconian sequestration budget cuts stopped by a 2013 Congressional budget deal are scheduled to go back into effect, The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is calling on Congress to end sequestration and prevent further cuts to special, gifted and early education services, and education research.

As a member of [NDD United](#), which represents more than 2,500 non-defense discretionary (NDD) organizations that would be affected by further sequestration, including education, public health, infrastructure, and law enforcement, CEC signed onto a letter asking Congress to raise the sequestered spending caps before Oct. 1, 2015, to avoid drastic cuts that could:

- Shortchange special education and early intervention services for children ages birth through young adulthood and their families
- Eliminate funding for gifted education programs across the nation to more than 3 million students who are academically gifted
- Limit or block education research for children and youth with disabilities and gifts and talents

“Many of our school districts are still reeling from the previous cuts and resuming sequestration would be devastating to the services and research that supports the nation’s 6 million children, youth and young adults with exceptionalities,” said James P. Heiden, President of the Council for Exceptional Children.

“CEC urges the Congress to lift the non-defense discretionary (NDD) caps on spending and replace sequestration with a balanced approach to deficit reduction that does not include further cuts to NDD programs, and allows for increased investments in the special and gifted education, early intervention and education research that are critical for the success of individuals with exceptionalities.”

In 2013, NDD United released a comprehensive, sector-by-sector impact report, [Faces of Austerity](#), which detailed how Americans are feeling the negative effects of sequestration. [Learn more about NDD United.](#)

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*The Council for Exceptional Children is a professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the success of children with exceptionalities. We accomplish our mission through advocacy, standards and professional development. Learn more at [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org).*

