



For immediate release

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CEC Saddened by Passing of Fred Weintraub, CEC Lobbyist on Landmark P.L. 94-142 Legislation

The following is a statement from Council for Exceptional Children President Robin D. Brewer.

Arlington, Va., May 5, 2014 – The Council for Exceptional Children is mourning the loss of our friend and former colleague Fred Weintraub, one of our most stalwart champions of special education for students with disabilities and their families. Fred passed away on Friday, May 2, following a short illness.

As director of CEC’s governmental relations program, Fred was the guiding force behind a team of advocates who lobbied on behalf of CEC for the enactment of P.L. 94-142, the *Education for All Handicapped Children Act*, the landmark legislation designed to provide a free, appropriate public education for students with disabilities, many of whom had previously been denied any opportunity to attend public schools.

Fred devoted many years of his professional career to the passage of P.L. 94-142, which is currently the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*. President Gerald Ford signed P.L. 94-142 into law on Nov. 29, 1975.

Fred said of PL 94-142 in recent years, “The achievements of the past quarter century are not a testament to a law, but to the special educators who made it a reality.”

I couldn’t agree more. We are grateful to Fred, a special educator whose commitment and unflinching belief in educational equity helped make P.L. 94-142 a reality and forever changed the lives of millions of students with disabilities and their families.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Fred’s wife Lynne Cook, his family and friends. I hope you will keep them in your thoughts.

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is an international community of educators who are the voice and vision of special and gifted education. CEC’s mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with exceptionalities and their families through professional excellence and advocacy. Visit us at www.cec.sped.org.

