



Mikki Garcia, Ed.D.
CEC President

Dear Colleague,

Thanks to the advocacy of Eleanor Roosevelt, and her belief in the importance of teachers, we have celebrated Teacher Appreciation Day since 1953. There is much to recognize because of the hard work and care that you provide each day in the classroom and through early intervention programs. I thank you for your service.

Today, as you receive smiles and tokens of appreciation from your students, families, and colleagues, I am going to ask you to do even more. Not in your community or where you teach, but in our nation's capital! **I urge you to join me July 9–12 in Washington, D.C., to make it clear to the Trump Administration and Congress that WE WILL NEVER BACK DOWN in our support of children and youth with exceptionalities.**

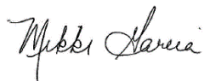


What you do in the classroom everyday makes a difference, so help me make the case that:

- Federal funding for special and gifted education and early intervention must be protected and increased, and it must be used for its intended purpose.
- Policies that restrict public education's ability to do its job, or that go against the principle of a free appropriate public education, are unacceptable.
- The approximately 9 million children and youth with exceptionalities and their families in the United States have civil rights that must be guaranteed.

If we all come together in our nation's capital and deliver a unified message to the members of Congress, we will make a huge impact! We MUST ensure the success of EVERY student, so let's make it clear this July and tell Congress that WE WILL NEVER BACK DOWN!

Sincerely,



Mikki Garcia, Ed.D.
CEC President

Be an advocate! [Register](#) for the [2017 Special Education Legislative Summit](#) before it's too late!