

## Special Education Advocates to Storm Capitol Hill

**Arlington, Va., July 6, 2017** – On Tuesday, July 11, the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) will gather over 250 special and gifted education and early intervention advocates on Capitol Hill to advocate on behalf of children and youth with disabilities. The advocacy of these professionals during the 2017 Special Education Legislative Summit will have a significant effect on the decisions Congress will make in the following months.

Many potential policy proposals, including substantial budget cuts to education and Medicaid as well as privatizing public education, are being considered by Congress—all of which are detrimental to children and youth with exceptionalities and the professionals who work on their behalf. As a result, Summit participants will meet with their senators and Congressional representatives to deliver the following messages:

- Access to Medicaid health care services that children and youth need to be successful in school and early intervention programs must be preserved.
- Congress must increase investments in special and gifted education and early intervention programs for children and youth with exceptionalities.
- Public funds should be reserved for public education.

During the four-day event, CEC and CASE staff and experts in the field will brief participants on the latest proposals under consideration by the Administration and Congress and support them in delivering effective stories to their senators and representatives.

“CEC members will storm Capitol Hill to do what they do best: educate! We know what works in special education and early intervention,” says CEC President Mikki Garcia, “and our federal government must play a leadership role in improving public education for all children and youth.” CASE President Gary Myrah concurs, noting Summit participants “are the ones who are able to share the success stories directly related to federal funding that impacts the success of all children.”

Newly appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services Kimberly Richey from the U.S. Department of Education will address Summit participants.

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*Learn more about the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) at [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org).*

*Learn more about the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) at <http://www.casecec.org/>.*



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