

Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). As you well know, students with disabilities have lower rates of graduation, attendance and overall academic achievement than students without disabilities. Improving these rates and closing the gaps in academic performance between regular education and special education students is of vital importance to our constituencies and is a goal shared by your legislation.

The Realizing the Spirit of IDEA Act would help children with disabilities benefit from education by providing schools with financial incentives to improve special education students' school performance. The mandatory federal funding provided under the legislation would be based on a school's ability to demonstrate improved outcomes on important measures, including attendance, graduation, drop out rates and post secondary education and employment. Furthermore, the legislation encourages schools to make use of available best practice interventions in an effort to assist students with special education needs to fully realize their academic potential—and ultimately realize the true spirit of IDEA.

We look forward to working with you this year to enact the Realizing the Spirit of IDEA Act. Thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of students with disabilities and their families.

Sincerely,

LAUREL L. STINE,

Director of Federal Relations.

Submitted on behalf of:
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

American Counseling Association.
American Psychiatric Association.
American Psychological Association.
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder.

Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health.

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.
National Association of School Psychologists.

National Association of Social Workers.
National Mental Health Association.

APRIL 2, 2003.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: As leading academic experts in the fields of special education, child psychology and education policy, we offer this letter of enthusiastic support for "The Realizing the Spirit of IDEA Act" introduced by Representative Pete Stark. It will better educate and ultimately improve the lives of disabled children throughout the United States.

Congress enacted "The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act" (IDEA) over 25 years ago. The original intent of IDEA was to ensure that disabled children had access to the same quality public education as all other children. While IDEA has successfully opened the doors of public schools to children with disabilities, their rates of graduation, attendance, academic achievement and drop out lag well behind all other segments of the school population. After they leave school, young people with disabilities are twice as likely to be unemployed and typically do not receive a post secondary education.

We believe "The Realizing the Spirit of IDEA Act" will provide the right incentives to make the spirit of the original IDEA legislation a reality. "The Realizing the Spirit of IDEA Act" will dramatically increase the financial support for children with disabilities, and if a school continues to improve, will provide full federal funding. However, in order to receive increases, school districts must make sure disabled children are not left behind by closing the achievement gap between disabled students and their non-dis-

abled classmates. In return for mandatory increases in funding for IDEA, school districts must help disabled students increase their attendance, academic proficiency and graduation rate, lower the incidence of drop out, and improve rates of post-secondary employment and education.

Since IDEA was enacted, social science research has provided solutions that can improve the educational and career outcomes of children with disabilities. However, the current system primarily provides incentives for schools to focus on following the letter of the law rather than implementing education policies to improve students' performance. By holding schools accountable for improving the education of students with disabilities, this bill will encourage schools to implement empirically based interventions that research has demonstrated work.

"The Realizing The Spirit of IDEA Act" will improve IDEA; moreover, it provides schools the flexibility, incentives and supports necessary to have IDEA fulfill its original intent. That is why we encourage others to join with us and to help enact this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Gerald August, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry Division, of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Minnesota Academic Health Center Medical School.

Russell A. Barkley, PhD, Professor, College of Health Professions, Medical University of South Carolina.

Caryn Carlson, PhD, Professor and Co-Director of Clinical Training, Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at Austin.

James Comer, MD, The Maurice Falk Professor of Child Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine's Child Study Center.

Kenneth A. Dodge, PhD, William McDougall Professor of Public Policy Studies, Director, Center for Child and Family Policy, Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Duke University.

Douglas Fuchs, PhD, Professor and Co-Director, National Center for Research on Learning Disabilities, Vanderbilt University, Peabody College.

Terry B. Gutkin, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Counseling, College of Health and Human Services at San Francisco University.

Alan E. Kazdin, PhD, John M. Musser Professor, Director, Child Study Center at Yale University School of Medicine.

Michael Cateldo, PhD, Professor of Behavioral Biology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Director of the Department of Behavioral Psychology at the Kennedy Krieger Institute.

Martha Bridge Denckla, MD, Director of the Developmental Cognitive Neurology Clinic and Batza Family Endowed Chair at the Kennedy Krieger Institute and Professor of Neurology, Pediatrics and Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

George DuPaul, PhD, Professor, Department of Education, Leigh University.

Elizabeth Glennie, PhD, Research Scholar, Center for Child and Family Policy Director, North Carolina Education Research Data Center, Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, North Carolina Education Research Data Center at Duke University.

George W. Hynd, EdD, Distinguished Research Professor and Associate Dean, Office of Research and External Affairs, College at The University of Georgia.

Philip C. Kendall, PhD, Laura H. Carnell Professor of Psychology, Director, Child and Adolescent Anxiety Disorders Clinic at Temple University.

Thomas R. Kratochwill, PhD, Professor at University of Wisconsin-Madison, Depart-

ment of Educational Psychology, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Risk Ostrander, EdD, Chief of Neuropsychology, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at The Johns Hopkins University.

Evelyn R. Oka, PhD, Associate Professor and Co-Director, School Psychiatry, Associate Professor, Learning Technology and Culture Dept. of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education at Michigan State University.

John Reid, PhD, Senior Scientist at Oregon Social Learning Center.

Karen C. Stoiber, PhD, Professor, Department of Educational Psychology at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

John R. Weisz, PhD, Professor, Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at University of California, Los Angeles.

John W. Hagen, PhD, Professor of Psychology at University of Michigan, Executive Officer, Society for Research in Child Development.

Thomas Oakland, PhD, Professor of Educational Psychology, Norman Hall at University of Florida and President, International Foundation for Children's Education.

Thomas H. Ollendick, PhD, University Distinguished Professor, Director, Child Study Center, Department of Psychology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Elizabeth Stearns, PhD, Research Scholar at Duke University, Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Center for Child and Family Policy.

James R. Thompson, Chairperson, Department of Special Education at Illinois State University.

Patrick J. Wolf, PhD, Assistant Professor at Georgetown University Public Policy Institute.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE LESLIE CROCKER SNYDER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to a remarkable woman, Judge Leslie Crocker Snyder. Judge Snyder currently sits on the New York Supreme Court where she presides over many high profile cases. This year, Judge Snyder will be the recipient of the National Police Defense Foundation's "Woman of the Year" Award. She is being awarded for her tremendous dedication to law enforcement and her success in both writing and interpreting important legislation.

Ms. Snyder began her career as an assistant district attorney in New York County where she became the first woman to try felony cases and homicides. She went on to become the chief and founder of the first Sex Crimes Prosecution Bureau in the United States. She has also co-authored a variety of legislation such as New York's Rape Shield Law, legislation concerning aggravated sexual abuse and other Penal Law Sex Crimes Reforms.

After leaving the New York County's District Attorney's office, Judge Snyder served as the Chief of Trials at the Office of the Special Prosecutor against Corruption in the Criminal Justice System and also worked for several years in private practice where she primarily

handled criminal trial work. Before being appointed to the New York Supreme Court she served as the Deputy Criminal Justice Coordinator and Head of the Arson Strike Force at the Office of the New York City Criminal Justice Coordinator.

Since 1986 Ms. Snyder has held her position as a New York Supreme Court Judge, and in 2000 she was appointed to the Court of Claims. Judge Snyder presides mostly over the highest level, "A-1" multiple defendant narcotics felonies; drug gang/homicide cases; organized crime cases and "white-collar" criminal cases. She has presided over the trials of many of New York's most violent drug gangs and successfully defied death threats from major drug lords.

Judge Snyder is the author of "25 to Life" and is a continuing lecturer to Bar associations and law enforcement groups concerning narcotics, sex crimes, homicides, criminal trials and women and the law. Judge Snyder also speaks to many school groups and has adopted two classes at a local public school. She makes numerous monthly visits to schools to observe court proceedings and conduct mock trials.

Additionally, Judge Snyder has appeared on a range of television programs including: "60 Minutes," "The Today Show," and others. She has been featured on news, cable and Court TV programs regarding crime, drugs and drug gangs, rape, women and the law and law enforcement.

Finally, Judge Snyder is the recipient of many awards including: The Radcliffe College Distinguished Alumnae Award, The Justice and Compassion Award, The Association of Legal and Medical Experts' Outstanding Contribution Award and the Retired Detectives of New York Award among numerous others.

Judge Snyder is truly an outstanding woman and an integral part of both her community and the United States' legal system. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Judge Snyder for her countless achievements to date and her continuing devotion to this important line of work.

TRIBUTE TO BRECKENRIDGE FIRE CHIEF JOHN MOLES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the distinguished service of John Moles, Chief of the Red, White and Blue fire department in Breckenridge, CO. Chief Moles is retiring this month after 27 years of service to his community.

Chief Moles and his colleagues in fire departments throughout the country put their lives on the line daily to ensure our health and safety. Their service is especially critical in these times of war and threats to our homeland.

Chief Moles recognized the importance of this service and helped to make the Breckenridge fire department the proud community asset that it is today. We too often fail to acknowledge the hard, selfless work of people like Chief Moles. So, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking John Moles for his service and many contributions to his col-

leagues, community, state and nation and in wishing him and his family all the best for the future.

For the information of our colleague, I am attaching a copy of a recent story about Chief Moles and his work for Breckenridge that appeared in the Summit Daily newspaper.

From the Summit Daily, March 23, 2003

BRECK FIRE CHIEF RETIRES AFTER 27 YEARS

(By Jane Stebbins)

BRECKENRIDGE.—After 27 years in the fire service, Red, White and Blue Fire Chief John Moles announced his retirement Thursday afternoon. Assistant chief Gary Green will serve as the interim chief until the fire district board selects a successor.

Moles spent Friday packing up boxes of photos, awards and other memorabilia he's collected in his years at the Breckenridge fire station.

"I've been cleaning out my desk and finding pictures from 15 years ago, ID cards from when I started with the Breckenridge Volunteers," Moles said. "I wondered where that went."

Moles doesn't plan to do anything for a couple of weeks, then he'll take a vacation with his wife, Carol, daughters, Kelly and Jennifer, and son, Tommy. Then he'll look for a second career.

"I really don't know what, though," he said. "After doing this for 27 years, I want to do something different."

Moles joined the department as a volunteer in May 1975—when the department was still known as the Breckenridge Volunteer Fire Department—and was promoted to maintenance officer a year later.

Moles worked his way up the ranks, first as a training division captain for five years, then as the assistant chief of operations. In July 1993, he was promoted to chief.

During his tenure, Moles saw two station remodels and the construction of a new station near Tiger Road and Highway 9. Several old, outdated vehicles and equipment were replaced.

He worked on some of Breckenridge's biggest fires—at the Cedars condominiums in Breckenridge and at Jack Pine in Dillon—and numerous car accidents. Emergency response, however, took a different tack on Sept. 11, 2001.

"All of a sudden, we entered a new age," Moles said. "It was a new age of anthrax and serious terrorism, biological and nuclear threats."

Over the years, the fire department has matured from volunteers responding from their homes to a 24-hour staff of career, volunteer and resident firefighters. When he started, the Breckenridge Volunteers comprised 14 volunteers. Today, Red, White and Blue comprises 15 volunteers, 30 residents and career firefighters and five administrative staff members.

Over the years, Moles helped the 911 dispatch center and spearheaded the program to get automatic external defibrillators (AED) for cardiac emergencies. He also was the first firefighter in the county to use an AED and save someone's life.

"We had just gotten certified by a hospital in Denver, and the paperwork was just coming in on a fax," he said. "But the only thing that came in was a cover sheet—no names, no acknowledgement of certifications. And then we got a cardiac arrest at the Breck Inn (now the Breckenridge Mountain Lodge), and the defibrillator was sitting in my office. I had to decide whether to use it without truly being certified. I was a little nervous, but I opted to use it."

That call was among his favorites, he said. "It's the thrill of a victory," he said. "You have this training, and you get instant results."

Under his leadership, fire crews have expanded safety inspections, firefighter and medic training and public education.

Despite all his accomplishments, Moles said he is happiest to have watched his firefighters grow into a group of dedicated professionals with expertise and training that rivals bigger city departments.

"They're very progressive, a very young bunch of enthusiastic firefighters who want to do the best for the citizens, and they'll continue to get better every year," he said. "I'm proud of the whole system. I was proud of the firefighters when I started and where they went year after year. I feel that even back in '70s and '80s we were the best, and we kept getting better. We never settled to be 'good enough.'"

HONORING THE LIFE OF ORANGE COUNTY ASTRONOMER WILLIAM KUHN

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Orange County astronomer William Kuhn.

Mr. Kuhn's fascination with astronomy began in his youth. At 18 he built his first telescope, and he continued to design and build telescopes his whole life.

In 1963, Mr. Kuhn moved to Orange County, where he taught astronomy to hundreds of people in his backyard. He helped to make the Orange County Astronomers one of the best amateur astronomy groups in the nation.

His greatest accomplishments included the discovery of eight supernovae and more than twenty asteroids, all discovered with his own 22-inch telescope.

Mr. Kuhn's contributions and dedication to astronomy will live on through future generations of astronomers. And his passion for exploring the mysteries of our universe will never be forgotten by the amateur astronomers in Orange County.

CONGRESSWOMAN LEE'S ARTICLE ON PEACE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues' attention the following article on Representative Barbara Lee that appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle Magazine on Sunday, March 23, 2003. Congresswoman Lee has been an eloquent advocate for peace and justice. Her tireless efforts to seek a diplomatic solution to the conflict with Iraq are vital to upholding our nation's moral leadership in the world. She is a credit to this institution and the values of democracy, freedom and human rights throughout the world. I'm honored to serve in Congress with her.

[From the San Francisco Chronicle Magazine, Mar. 23, 2003]

GIVING PEACE A CHANCE; LOCAL REP.
BARBARA LEE ON HER NATIONAL FOLLOWING
(By Sam Whiting)

It isn't lonely as it used to be way out there on the far left.