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**Congress of the United States**  
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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE  
WORKFORCE

February 9, 2012

Dr. Todd Hoadley  
Superintendent  
Olmsted Falls Schools  
26937 Bagley Road  
Olmsted Falls, Ohio 44138

Dear Dr. Hoadley:

Earlier this week, I met with local representatives of the National School Boards Association (NSBA). They expressed to me their concerns regarding funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The federal government is responsible for 40% of additional costs associated with educating students with disabilities. In order to fulfill that promise to the 6.6 million students who receive IDEA services, the federal government should be allocating approximately \$26 billion annually. However, current funding for IDEA is less than half that; \$11.5 billion. This shortfall creates a significant financial burden on individual school districts to fill that gap, many of which are already cutting programs and budgets due to the economic recession. It is imperative that the government live up to its promise to special needs students.

As a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, I have consistently worked to open the doors of education opportunity to students with special needs. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 864, the Keep Our Promises to America's Children and Teachers (PACT) Act. If passed, this bill would require full funding of both the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and part A of title I of the Elementary Secondary Education Act of 1965.

I am grateful the NSBA took the time to bring to my attention the ways to help special needs students reach their full potential. Please be assured that I will keep the children in mind as I continue to work to fully fund and strengthen IDEA.

I am concerned with all matters that affect the public education system. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 225-5871, if I may be of assistance to you or your school district.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich  
Member of Congress