



March 15, 2006

Dear Senator:

The National Alliance of Pupil Services Organizations (NAPSO) is writing to urge you to vote for the Specter/Harkin Amendment to the fiscal year 2007 budget resolution.

NAPSO is a coalition of national professional organizations whose members provide and support a variety of school-based prevention and intervention services to assist students in becoming effective learners and productive citizens. NAPSO organizations represent over a million members, including school counselors, school nurses, psychologists and school psychologists, social workers and school social workers, occupational, physical, and creative arts therapists, speech-language pathologists and audiologists, teachers, administrators, and parents. NAPSO promotes interdisciplinary practice and cooperation and advocates for ensuring access to quality related services for all students.

The amendment being offered by Senators Arlen Specter (R-PA) and Tom Harkin (D-IA) would add \$7 billion in budget authority for use in budget functions 500, 550, and 600. This additional budget authority is needed to prevent damaging cuts and program eliminations slated to occur within these accounts among programs serving students... The range of constituencies and needs encompassed by the programs within these budget accounts is broad. However, the common characteristic of these programs is their focus on strengthening this nation by investing in, and improving the quality of life of, its most vulnerable citizens. Pupil/related services personnel work with students in many different settings and in many different specialties, and we see the need on a daily basis for maintaining, if not increasing, public investment in education services.

The \$7 billion increase in spending on education programs is paid for by extending the advance spending cap by a like amount, and therefore will not add to the deficit. A vote on behalf of this amendment will speak loudly about the priorities of this Congress and its desire to invest in the betterment of its citizens, and to sustain our nation's economic and scientific edge.

NAPSO urges you to vote for the Specter/Harkin Amendment. Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Chris Campbell at ccampbell@counseling.org, Myrna Mandlawitz at mandlawitz@verizon.net, or Neil Snyder at nsnyder@asha.org.

Sincerely,

Chris Campbell
NAPSO Co-Chair

Myrna Mandlawitz
NAPSO Co-Chair

Neil Snyder
NAPSO Co-Chair

NAPSO Co-Chairs Myrna Mandlawitz, Christopher Campbell, & Neil Snyder
444 N. Capitol Street, N.W. Suite 715, Washington, DC 20001
Phone/FAX (202) 686-1637 ~ Email: mandlawitz@verizon.net

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Phone/FAX (202) 686-1637 ~ Email: mandlawitz@verizon.net