



August 1, 2007

The Honorable Dave Loebsack
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Loebsack:

On behalf of the National Alliance of Pupil Services Organizations (NAPSO), we are pleased to offer our support for the Reducing Barriers to Learning Act of 2007. 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.

This bill recognizes the need for federal and State leadership in coordinating critical support services that enable students to be successful in school. Most important, this bill acknowledges that students may require specialized instructional support services that assist them in addressing barriers to learning. Schools must be prepared to meet the needs of all students, including social and emotional and mental health concerns. Addressing these needs will allow students to participate more fully and experience greater success in school and beyond.

NAPSO fully supports the establishment of the Office of Specialized Instructional Support Services and the grants to States for Specialized Instructional Support Coordinators. The former will allow better coordination of cross-agency and Department of Education grants and activities focused on barriers to learning and will provide leadership for specialized instructional support services. The latter will provide the critical link between federal activities and local educational agency implementation through technical assistance and expansion of specialized instructional support services.

NAPSO looks forward to working with you to enact this legislation, so that students may have access to and benefit from critical services that enable them to be effective learners and productive adults.

Sincerely,

Christopher Campbell

Myrna Mandlawitz