



BOB CASEY

FIGHTING *for* PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES

The RISE Act

U.S. Senator Bob Casey

Students with disabilities are graduating high school and enrolling in college at an all-time high. It is critically important to our nation's economic health and prosperity that every student can access postsecondary education. Yet, students with disabilities often face barriers in college that prevent them from truly excelling.

The Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower (RISE) Act addresses three significant challenges confronting students with disabilities and their families as they prepare for postsecondary education.

Challenge: **Students with a documented disability may have to undergo new, costly diagnostic testing once in higher education to demonstrate they qualify for disability services in college.** Currently, the majority of schools require testing be 'recent' (within as little as six months), despite diagnosis of a lifelong disability or an existing IEP from the student's high school.

Solution: The RISE Act clarifies that a past individualized education program (IEP), 504 plan, or documentation from the armed services, as well as other types of documentation commonly held by students with disabilities, will be sufficient to establish a student's disability in college.

Challenge: **Finding information about disability services programs offered at institutions of higher education (IHEs) can be challenging for students with disabilities, and their families.**

Solution: The RISE Act requires schools to adopt transparent policies regarding disability services and to widely share and disseminate the information to students and families.

Challenge: **Too often, college faculty do not receive training and support to address the needs of students with disabilities.**

Solution: The RISE Act Authorizes \$10 million for the National Center for Information and Technical Support for Postsecondary Students with Disabilities, an existing program within HEA. This Center is charged with supporting disability training for college faculty in addition to providing information to students and families.

Supporting Organizations

National Center for Learning Disabilities, The Advocacy Institute, All4Ed, AHEAD, AIM Institute for Learning and Research, American Association of People with Disabilities, American Federation of Teachers, American Psychological Association, American Occupational Therapy Association, The Arc of the United States, Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Autism Society of America, Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, CASE (Council of Administrators of Special Education), CAST, Center for Learner Equity, Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD), Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination, Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities Education Taskforce, Council for Exceptional Children, Council for Learning Disabilities, Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Decoding Dyslexia Network, Education Reform Now, The Education Trust, Eye to Eye, Higher Education Consortium for Special Education, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), Institute for Higher Education Policy, Japanese American Citizens League, Learning Disabilities Association of America, The Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights, National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Dauphin County, PA, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, National Association of School Psychologist, National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), National Disability Rights Network, National Down Syndrome Congress, National Down Syndrome Society, National Education Association, National Urban League, The Parents' Place of MD, PAVE, Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK), RespectAbility, SchoolHouse Connection, Show and Tell, SPAN Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, Teach for America, Teach Plus, UnidosUS, University of California Student Association.