



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 19, 2015

Bethany Alvaré
(202) 540-8014
balvare@tash.org

TASH Joins Civil Rights and Education Advocates in Protecting Children, Civil Rights in ESEA Reauthorization

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, TASH proudly joined a coalition of civil rights, disability rights, and education advocacy organizations in sending a letter to the Senate calling on it to incorporate four necessary fixes to the Every Child Achieves Act of 2015 (ECAA), which is its version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization (ESEA). [Click here](#) to read the letter.

“No Child Left Behind, the 2001 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, was a landmark because for the first time students with disabilities were included in the accountability systems for states, districts, and schools, says Jenny Stonemeier, Education Policy Director at TASH. “If the ECAA passes in its current form, students with disabilities will experience untold set backs in equitable access to the curriculum.”

When it was first passed in 1965, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act marked an extraordinary step for education and civil rights. For 50 years, the ESEA has been our nation’s driving force for educational equity, and has helped ensure that states are living up to their obligation to provide every child with the quality education they need to succeed. However, in its current form, the ECAA betrays the ESEA’s rich civil rights legacy.

The Senate must improve the ECAA by strengthening accountability for student outcomes; providing additional data on student groups; addressing disparities in resources; and providing a more meaningful federal role. Without addressing these issues, the bill will not fulfill its functions as a civil rights law.

In its current form, the ECAA threatens to turn back the clock on the academic progress our nation has made in the last 50 years. We urge the Senate to incorporate these four fixes into the final bill so we can continue to build on this progress, and fulfill our country’s obligation to ensure that every child receives the quality education they deserve.

###

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, TASH is an international grassroots leader in advancing inclusive communities through research, education and advocacy. Founded in 1975, we are a volunteer-driven organization that advocates for human rights and inclusion for people with the most significant disabilities and support needs – those most vulnerable to segregation, abuse, neglect and institutionalization. The inclusive practices we validate through research have been shown to improve outcomes for all people. More information about TASH can be found at www.tash.org.