



2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000 | Arlington, VA 22202-3557  
(P) +1.703.620.3660 | (Toll Free) 888.232.7733 | (TTY) 866.915.5000 | (F) 703.264.9494  
[www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org)

October 19, 2011

**RE: CEC Opposes Isakson Amendment #2 to Title I**

Dear Senator:

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the largest professional organization of educators who work on behalf of 10 million children and youth with disabilities and those with gifts and talents. **We oppose Senator Isakson's Amendment 2, to Title I offered today during the Committee mark-up because it will undermine educational opportunities for students with disabilities.**

The Isakson amendment would allow any number of students with disabilities to take either an alternate assessment or a modified assessment – meaning they would be excluded from the general assessment system. **When a student with a disability takes a different assessment than a student without a disability, there is no way to compare their performance, no way to accurately measure achievement gaps and no way to know how well they have grasped the grade-level content.**

Importantly, neither the data, which indicates that the students who benefit from an alternate assessment are far less than one percent, nor best practice supports placing more students into different assessments.

If large numbers or possibly all students with disabilities are given alternate or modified assessments, we will effectively - and under the Isakson amendment - legally create a separate education system for students with disabilities. We urge you to do all you can to stop the Isakson amendment. Thank you for your work in this most important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah A. Ziegler".

Deborah A. Ziegler  
Associate Executive Director  
Policy and Advocacy Services  
Council for Exceptional Children