

July 20, 2006

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), the nonprofit organization representing the directors of special education in the states, territories, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Freely Associated States, I am writing to urge you to vote against H.R. 5766 and/or H.R. 3282 when they come to the House floor for a vote.

Both of these measures would give an unelected Sunset Commission the authority to slash funding and/or terminate hundreds of nondefense programs that the federal government funds that affect nearly every aspect of daily living, including education and other services to individuals with disabilities.

NASDSE believes that this legislation would be extremely harmful because:

- Sunset commissions make decisions behind closed doors without public comment, notice or open meetings.
- Sunset commissions would eliminate important and beneficial programs that affect every aspect of American life, including education, health, housing, nutrition and transportation. Congress would have just a single vote to accept or reject all of the commission's decisions.
- Sunset commissions take power away from Congress to review and reauthorize programs on a regular basis. Domestic legislation is already reviewed regularly by Congressional committees and programs are changed and modified according to the views of elected officials.

NASDSE is opposed to any Sunset Commission legislation and its consequences: a huge shift in the separation of powers that would constrict congressional authority, diminish citizen participation, and eliminate programs that are critical to the well-being of our nation's most vulnerable citizens.

For these reasons, NASDSE urges you to vote against H.R. 5766 and/or H.R. 3282.

Sincerely,



Bill East, Ed.D.
Executive Director