

**SAMPLE PARENT LETTER  
TO CONGRESS**

Dear Congressman (or Senator)

I am the grandparent of [description: e.g. first grade, high school, special education, etc.] student at \_\_\_\_\_ School.

In the past few years, I have become increasingly concerned about the lack of federal funding for special education. Originally, Congress promised to fund 40% of the cost of special education but currently is only funding approximately 17%. As a result, state and local budgets have become increasingly strained as various education programs compete for scarce education dollars.

The budgets of other educational programs have been cut as a result of the underfunding of education and this may lead to hostility or resentment toward special education programs. According to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 12, passed by California Legislature, special education is underfunded by almost \$1 billion annually and, therefore, almost \$1 billion is transferred from regular education. It is also estimated that if Congress fulfilled its promise of funding that California would receive approximately \$1.8 billion annually which would eliminate the fiscal deficit and allow for the funding of much needed special education programs while allowing funding for regular education programs as well.

Before embarking on the establishment of new educational programs, Congress should fulfill its prior commitments and fund 40% of the cost of special education.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]