**From:** Lauren Blachowiak <lblachowiak@AUCD.ORG>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 11:56 AM  
**To:** Vogt, Camilla (Hickenlooper) <Camilla\_Vogt@hickenlooper.senate.gov>; Cassling, Kate (Hickenlooper) <Kate\_Cassling@hickenlooper.senate.gov>  
**Cc:** Rylin Rodgers <rrodgers@AUCD.ORG>  
**Subject:** Re: Association of University Centers on Disabilities introduction and meeting request

Good morning Camilla,

Thank you again for meeting with us on Friday (especially after such a late Thursday night!) to discuss how our network can support your boss’s work and the needs of the disability community during COVID-19. We wanted to share some follow-up for your use:

1. We have heard of multiple pressing needs for the disability community during the pandemic that have yet to be addressed in prior COVID-19 relief packages:

**Fund Home-and Community-Based Settings Services to meet the emergency needs of people with disabilities living in the community.**

**Justification**: People with disabilities rely on a network of services to remain in their homes and communities .They are currently asked to stay home, yet this results in avoiding the community organizations that serve them. Investment is needed in systems for home care workers to safely provide care and supports.

**Ask**: 10% FMAP bump to state HCBS

**Legislation**: COVID-19 HCBS Relief Act ([H.R.525](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/525?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22H.R.525%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=1))

**Expand eligibility for Economic Impact Payments to include adults claimed as dependents on another’s taxes.**

**Justification***:* Many adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities are claimed as dependents on a caregiver’s taxes and have therefore been ineligible for the Economic Impact Payments. Such an exclusion does not reflect the reality that many family members and/or unpaid caregivers shoulder additional costs when supporting a dependent. Retroactively providing the Economic Impact Payments authorized by the [CARES Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3548/text) and [Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/133), as well as any future payments is paramount to achieving economic equity for these individuals.

**Ask:** Retroactive payments of $1800 per dependent.

**Legislation***:* See [legislative text](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3652/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22all+dependents+count+act%22%5D%7D&r=6&s=1) of All Dependents Count Act of 2020 ([S.116-3652](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3652?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22All+Dependents+Count+Act%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=6)) and this[letter](https://craig.house.gov/sites/craig.house.gov/files/wysiwyg_uploaded/Letter%20to%20House-Senate%20Leadership%20Dependent%20Definition_210203%20%28final%29%20%28002%29.pdf) addressed to Congressional Leadership from Senator Smith (MN) and Representative Craig (MN).

*Note*: [Data](https://www.cbpp.org/research/economy/future-stimulus-should-include-immigrants-and-dependents-previously-left-out) from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities on number of dependents left out of Economic Impact Payments:

       5 million 17-18 year-olds;

       4 million college students aged 19 to 23;

       400,000 adults aged 19 and older with disabilities;

       More than 5 million other adult relatives (such as elderly parents) who have little income and are claimed as tax dependents by their children or other relatives**[[10]](https://www.cbpp.org/research/economy/future-stimulus-should-include-immigrants-and-dependents-previously-left-out" \l "_ftn10" \t "_blank)**

**Fund Special Education and early care services to meet the emergency needs of students and young children with disabilities and their families, and the schools and service providers that support them.**

**Justification**: The educational services mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)are critical for the continued learning and future successes of children with disabilities. The disruption to education and childcare services caused by COVID-19 disproportionately impacts students with disabilities and their families, who rely upon individualized educational and developmental services from school and community providers .Additional funds for IDEA are critical to ensure that children with disabilities can continue to access necessary services in a safe and equitable manner.

**Ask**: $12 billion for IDEA sections Part B, Part C, and Section 619.

**Legislation**: Supporting Children with Disabilities During COVID Act ([S.240](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/240/text))

1. We wanted to make sure you have the contact information for the JFK Partners UCEDD and LEND Director:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SANDRA FRIEDMAN, MD, MPH | |
| **JFK Partners** | |
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1. Linked again for your ease are AUCD’s [Colorado state disability fact](https://www.aucd.org/docs/policy/AUCD%20State%20Profiles/AUCD%20CO%20State%20Profile.pdf) sheet and [2021 Disability Policy Priorities](https://www.aucd.org/docs/Policy_Priorities_2021_AUCD.pdf).

We look forward to hearing more about your boss’s priorities regarding the disability community and working together in the 117th Congress. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Best,

**Rylin Rodgers**                                       **Lauren Blachowiak**

Director of Public Policy                     Disability Policy Fellow

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