

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and  
Human Services, Education, and Related  
Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and  
Human Services, Education, and Related  
Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

In Wisconsin, Special Olympics programs provide important services to individuals with intellectual disabilities and help foster community involvement and unity. As you begin consideration of the Fiscal Year 2020 Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we encourage you to include full funding of vital Special Olympics programs. Specifically, any legislation should include \$17.583 million for the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools Program.

Unfortunately, many stigmas still exist against individuals with intellectual disabilities. The Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools program has proven to be successful in fostering unity and acceptance of those with intellectual disabilities in thousands of schools across the United States. According to Special Olympics, 97% of high school seniors say that Unified Champion Schools programs are changing their school for the better and an overwhelming majority of students without intellectual disabilities that participated in the program feel comfortable having conversations, eating lunch, and working on a school project with a student with an intellectual disability. 86% of school staff say that the Unified Champion Schools program has drastically reduced bullying in their schools.

Furthermore, the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools program provides quality programming that is cost-effective. According to Special Olympics, most schools that participate in the program become self-sustaining three years after their initial funding. In the 2017-2018 school year, 64% of schools were considered sustainable. Special Olympics understands the importance of fiscal responsibility and never asks Congress for excessive increases.

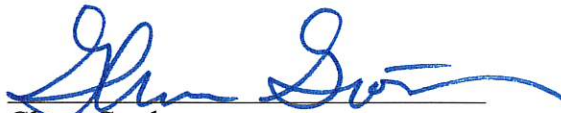
The Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools program is critical to communities in Wisconsin. Over 96 Wisconsin schools participate in the program, including 426 athletes and 32 Unified Competition opportunities. Nearly 15,000 Wisconsin students have been reached by the

Unified Champion Schools program, which has helped establish welcoming and accepting communities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

With the Fiscal Year 2020 Department of Education budget request eliminating funding for the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools Program, it is imperative now, more than ever, that Congress support these much-needed programs. Once again, we urge you to include \$17.583 million for the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools Program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil  
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher  
Member of Congress