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NAD Urges Action on IDEA

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For Immediate Release

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Silver Spring, MD -- The NAD is encouraging members to contact Congress asking that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) be strengthened to ensure that deaf and hard of hearing children have access to all aspects of education.

The U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate plan to convene a "Conference Committee" after the election to reauthorize the IDEA. IDEA was last reauthorized in 1997.

The Conference Committee's task is to resolve differences between the Senate and the House, write a "Conference Report" (compromise bill) that would return to each chamber for passage and then go to President Bush for signature into law.

"The IDEA is the nation's landmark special education law," Kelby Brick, NAD Director of Law and Advocacy said. "This is why the NAD is communicating with House and Senate staff members in advance of the anticipated Conference effort. We hope that grass-roots support will reinforce our position that children must have access in the classroom in order to learn."

Advocates, parents and other interested individuals, especially those who live in States and/or Congressional Districts that are represented on the Conference Committee, are urged to learn more about this important information and action now at:

<http://www.nad.org/ideaamendments>

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About NAD

The NAD, as a national federation of state association and organizational affiliates, offers civil rights advocacy, grassroots and youth leadership development, and legal expertise across a broad spectrum of areas including but not limited to accessibility, education, employment, healthcare, mental health, rehabilitation, technology, telecommunications, and transportation.

Specific services include public information and dissemination; information and referral services; technical assistance, training seminars; national and regional conferences; legal and public policy analysis, guidance and research; and litigation consultation services. Such services are both directly and indirectly provided to the volunteer officers and membership of state association and organizational affiliates, both via electronic mail as well as in person (i.e., consultation, seminars, and conferences).

The NAD website (<http://www.nad.org>) also disseminates a wealth of advocacy information and resources that is accessed by both individual and affiliate members, as well as by members of the general public.

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