



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

SEP 29 1998

Honorable Stephen Horn
Member of Congress
4010 Watson Plaza Drive, Ste. 160
Lakewood, California 90712

Dear Congressman Horn:

I am writing in response to your letter on behalf of your constituent, Ms. [redacted] expressed concerns that the membership of the Long Beach Unified School District's Advisory Commission on special education does not reflect the diversity of the community in Long Beach. Because Ms. [redacted] concerns are directly related to special education, your letter was referred to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for response.

In her letter, Ms. [redacted] requests your evaluation of her claim that the Advisory Committee membership does not reflect the diversity in her community. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997, mandates the standards for membership on a State Advisory panel (See §612(a)(21)(B)) as does the California State Education Code at §EC 33590-33595. Federal law does not mandate the membership requirements of local community advisory boards. Although the California code at §EC 56190-56193 addresses the membership of the community advisory board, it does not require that membership be reflective of the diversity in the community. Enclosed you will find copies of the both the IDEA and State code sites referenced, as well as a publication about the IDEA Amendments of 1997 issued by the National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities.

I hope you find this information helpful to you in responding to your constituent. If this Office can be of further assistance, please let me know, or feel free to contact Ellen Safranek of my staff at (202) 205-9131.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Hehir".

Thomas Hehir
Director
Office of Special Education
Programs

Enclosures