



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

JUL 27 1998

Howard K. Koh, MD, MPH
Commissioner
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108-4619

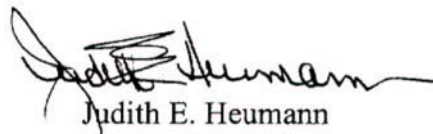
Dear Dr. Koh:

Thank you for your letter of March 18, 1998, to Secretary Riley. I am pleased to respond. In your letter, you explain that, under the State allocation provisions of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Commonwealth's Part C grant for fiscal year 1998 will be nearly \$800,000 less than its grant award for fiscal year 1997.

We understand the Commonwealth's concerns, and we commend the Commonwealth for its efforts to serve this important population. However, the statute does not afford the Department any flexibility in interpreting the State allocation formula under Part C. The provisions of the allocation formula are very specific about the population basis for calculating State allocations and about the hold harmless provisions. While the statute gives States the flexibility to use Part C funds to serve at-risk children, no additional funding is added for this purpose.

I share your commitment to the provision of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

Sincerely yours,



Judith E. Heumann