



LEGISLATIVE ALERT: ASK YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO SIGN ON AS CO-SPONSORS OF THE *REDUCING BARRIERS TO LEARNING ACT OF 2009!*

Date: September 25, 2009

Action Requested: NASP needs you to ask your elected officials to sign on as co-sponsors of the “Reducing Barriers to Learning Act of 2009.” Representative Loeb sack, the bill’s sponsor, is currently circulating a “Dear Colleague” letter and is looking for additional Representatives to sign on in support of this legislation. This legislation seeks to create an Office of Specialized Instructional Supports in the U.S. Department of Education so that there is official leadership dedicated to the services provided by pupil/related services providers like school psychologists, counselors, nurses, and speech-language therapists. Without this leadership at the federal level, it will continue to be difficult for school psychologists to have their services valued and promoted.

Here’s what we need you to do.....

1. **Send a letter to your elected officials through the NASP Advocacy Action Center.** Click on the following link and you will be guided through a simple **1-minute process** for sending an e-mail to your elected official. You only need your name and address to submit this correspondence. Click here:
<http://capwiz.com/naspweb/issues/alert/?alertid=10949546&type=CO>
2. **If you know the name of your US Representative, you can call them by phone: Call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121.** If you don’t know who your elected officials are, go to the NASP Advocacy Action Center (<http://capwiz.com/naspweb/home>). Scroll down to the header that says “Elected Officials” and enter your zip code and press “Go”. The names and the contact information for your elected officials will appear. Once you are connected with your elected official, you will likely get a voicemail system where you should say, “Hi, my name is (your name) from (your city and state). As your constituent, I am calling to ask for your support of the “Reducing Barriers to Learning Act.” Representative Loeb sack is looking for co-sponsors and I believe that this bill would help address barriers to learning for struggling students by making related services more available and accessible in schools. If you need to reach

me for any reason, you can contact me at (your phone number) or (your e-mail address).”

3. **Forward this e-mail to any colleagues, friends, or family members that you think might be interested in participating in this effort.** They do not have to be NASP members to participate.

If you are interested in reading the text of this bill as it appeared during the 110th Congress, click here (<http://thomas.loc.gov>). Below the section with the blue bold header that says “Find More Legislation,” click on “Search Multiple Congresses.” Mark the box that says “110.” Enter in the search field “Reducing Barriers to Learning.” Scroll down and click “Search.”

Thank you for your advocacy efforts and being part of the “1-minute solution!” If you have any questions or comments about this alert, please feel free to contact NASP Public Policy Director, Stacy Skalski, at sskalski@naspweb.org or 301-657-0270.

“I never worry about action, but only inaction.”
--Winston Churchill