

Legislative Alert – Summer 2020

IAGC supports the funding of the Javits grants and the inclusion of gifted education in the Higher Education Act

The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) requests IAGC's support to:

1. Ensure the Jacob K. Javits **Gifted and Talented Students Education Program is funded** to address the needs of all gifted and talented children in every state.
2. Ensure that any reauthorization of the **Higher Education Act (HEA)** includes support for gifted education.

Summary:

Congress reauthorized the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program in *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*.

- Also, for the first time in a Federal K-12 law:
 - Title I includes students who are gifted and talented; and
 - Title II includes gifted educators as part of a state's professional development plan

Congress is currently considering reauthorizing the *Higher Education Act* that includes requirements to include gifted and talented learners in two teacher-training provisions. Some proposals (e.g., by Representatives Virginia Foxx (R-NC) and Brett Guthrie (R-KY)) eliminate teacher training to support gifted and talented students in the *Higher Education Act*.

Gifted children and educators need to be included in all Federal education bills!

IAGC and NAGC request Congressional Support For:

1. \$32 million for the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program to support state and local work to identify and serve students who have been underrepresented in gifted and talented programs; and
2. Keeping the current gifted language in the *Higher Education Act* supporting teacher training to meet the needs of gifted and talented students.

How IAGC members can advocate for these important causes:

- Review the NAGC "Backgrounder" documents on The Javits Appropriations Request and the Higher Education Act. (Look under "[Resources](#)" on the IAGC "[Be an Advocate](#)" page!)
- Contact your Senators and Representative. Please click [here](#) to find your Representative and click [here](#) to find your two Senators.
- Ask for Congressional support on both pieces of legislation. Requests can be simple, but please consider adding your personal thoughts/stories about why each is so important to gifted students and their teachers. You can also use any of the information in the background documents.