|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **\\stn\stnedfs$\NCDHHHome$\ben.sparks\My Documents\UNK Logo and layouts\Logo\NCDHH-LOGO-FINAL.jpg** | [E Communicator logo](http://www.ncdhh.ne.gov/index.html) |
| Pete RickettsGovernor **Jeremy Fitzpatrick,**  *Chairperson*  Commission Members  Frances Beaurivage  Lincoln  Jonathan Scherling  Omaha  Candice Arteaga  Greenwood  Dr. Stacie Ray          Lincoln  Norman Weverka  Brainard  Robert Feit LincolnSandra ShawSewardDiane SchuttFairburyJohn C. Wyvill *Executive Director* | **NCDHH Opposes Efforts to Weaken Special Education Law in Nebraska Schools**  Executive Director, John Wyvill, has sent formal communication to Nebraska Congressional delegation urging them to oppose efforts to “water down” special education obligations in serving students in Nebraska who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing.  The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that makes available a free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children. The IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to nearly 1,000 Nebraska children who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing.  There is a legislative proposal that will allow states to ask for a waiver from complying with existing IDEA requirements. In short, it will provide school districts a “free pass” to not comply with special education laws.  Parent and advocate’s concern for our children who are deaf or hard of hearing include the access to support systems such as sign language interpreters, captioning, tactile, touch signals, amplified speakers, and/or braille devices in the classroom. Without these services, they will fall behind in the classroom and with their peers. This will not only have a short-term impact, but a long-term impact on children’s education and their future plans in school.  If you or someone you know would like information or resources related to their child’s education during this time, please contact NCDHH Education Advocate, Jessica Larrison, at [Jessica.larrison@nebraska.gov](mailto:Jessica.larrison@nebraska.gov).  #  [http://www.tweezerman.com/uploaded_files/tinymce/images/facebook-logo.jpg](https://www.facebook.com/nebraskacommissionforthedeafandhardofhearing/)  To unsubscribe from the E-Communicator, reply to this email with “Unsubscribe from E-Communicator” in the subject line of the message. |
|  |  |