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7-11-1981

## Kerr, John Hoare (1978-1984): Correspondence 09

Claiborne Pell

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CLAIBORNE PELL  
RHODE ISLAND

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 13, 1981

*Bobo letter following!*

RECEIVED  
JUL 22 1981

Mr. J. H. Kerr  
RFD #1, Derrydown  
Newport, R. I. 02840

Dear Mr. ~~J. H.~~ Kerr:

As you may know, the Senate recently passed the Budget Reconciliation Bill, which contains provisions having a direct impact on special education programs. Knowing of your concern about these programs from your message to me, I wanted to provide you with an update on the action we have taken in this area.

First, the Senate voted to continue funding for handicapped education, except the State Grant program, at the present levels. We voted to increase the State Grant program, which provides funds for direct services to handicapped children, by 5 percent in 1982 and 10 percent in 1983. *- good*

As you know, the President proposed a 25 percent cut in special education funds. I strongly opposed that proposal and in light of the drastic cuts made in other areas of education, I am heartened that the Senate rejected the Administration's proposed cuts in special education. *- good*

Secondly, the Senate also decided not to include special education in the block grant program. This will help insure that special education funds will go directly to handicapped children. Under the block grant approach, these children would have been forced to compete for a share of block grant funds with other deserving recipients, such as poor children needing basic skills instruction. I strongly supported keeping special education out of the block grant, and I am very glad that this position prevailed. *- good*

In these difficult times I am pleased to be able to report to you that these vital programs fared reasonably well. I deeply appreciate your alerting me to your strong concern about them. If there is any further way in which I can be of help to you, I hope you will let me know. *See attached*

Warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

*Claiborne Pell*  
Claiborne Pell

*Justice Prevailed! Congratulate!  
My 3 severely & profoundly handicapped sons  
thank you all as I do!*