



Resolution #17-04

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING REPUBLICAN ATTEMPTS TO
WEAKEN SPECIAL EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) ensures services to children with disabilities and governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education and related services to more than 6.5 million eligible infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities in 1975; and

WHEREAS, The Trump Administration, along with Republicans, have demonstrated plans to weaken and undermine special education including Education Secretary Betsy DeVos stating that special education is “best left to the states” and admitting a limited knowledge and understanding of special education laws and services and, supports moving to divest dollars from public schools through private school vouchers and charters schools which are not bound by IDEA; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions publicly stated that IDEA “may be the single most irritating problem for teachers throughout America today...creating a complex system of federal regulations and laws that have created lawsuit after lawsuit, special treatment for certain children, and that are a big factor in accelerating the decline in civility and discipline in classrooms all over America”;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Orange County condemns any efforts by Republicans at every level of government to weaken special education laws, enforcement and funding; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Orange County calls upon all elected officials to join the DPOC in working to protect and strengthen special education laws, and ensure full funding of IDEA, provide support to families with special needs students and ensure every child has access to early intervention, services and a safe and appropriate learning environment that encourages all students reaching their fullest potential.

Submitted by Carina Franck-Pantone, 69th Assembly District

**Adopted by the Democratic Party of Orange County
At its April 24, 2017 Central Committee Meeting**