

**TALENT Act (S.512):  
To Aid Gifted and High-Ability Learners by Empowering the Nation's Teachers Act**

Limited federal leadership, coupled with a singular focus on grade-level proficiency, has resulted in an educational system that too often fails to address the unique learning needs of gifted students and those who could become high achieving with appropriate supports.

The TALENT Act was recently introduced in the Senate by Senators Chuck Grassley (IA), Bob Casey (PA), and Barbara Mikulski (MD). Senator John Boozman (AR) has joined as a co-sponsor of the bill.

*KAGE Board members Julia Roberts and Lynette Baldwin were in Washington, D.C. in early March to meet with our legislators about supporting the Talent Act.*

**Help us get support for the TALENT Act by calling or emailing our Kentucky Senators to ask them to co-sponsor S.512., the TALENT Act.**

**Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)** [www.mcconnell.senate.gov](http://www.mcconnell.senate.gov)  
(202) 224-2541  
317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510  
Or in Kentucky: (502) 582-6304  
601 W. Broadway, Rm 630, Louisville, KY 40202

**Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)** [www.paul.senate.gov](http://www.paul.senate.gov)  
(202) 224-4343  
208 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510  
Or in Kentucky: (270) 782-8303  
1029 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101

If calling, ask to speak with someone who works with educational issues for the Senator. If you prefer to write, the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) has a form letter you can use to send to the offices of Senators McConnell and Paul. It's easy to do, and you can personalize your message. The website to use is <http://capwiz.com/cek/issues/alert/?alertid=62497466>  
You can also send an e-mail message to your Senators through the CEC Action Center.  
Key Provisions of the TALENT Act.

Success in the 21st century requires a commitment to developing student talent as early as possible. When compared to other developed countries, the United States ranks 31st in math, 17th in reading, and 23rd in science.<sup>1</sup> To address this urgent need, gifted education supporters have introduced legislation to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to provide responsible federal leadership in meeting the needs of gifted and high-ability students. *To Aid Gifted and High-Ability Learners by Empowering the Nation's Teachers (TALENT) Act* has four key emphases:

- Supporting Educator Development to Ensure Academic Growth for High-Ability Students
- Confronting and Addressing the National Excellence Gap
- Providing Public Transparency of Student Achievement Data
- Continuing Research and Dissemination on Best Practices in Gifted Education

Read more about the Talent Act on the NAGC website at <http://www.nagc.org> or the Council for Exceptional Children at <http://capwiz.com/cek/issues/alert/?alertid=62497466> ***Thank you for supporting this important legislation on providing appropriate services to high-ability students.***