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To promote and ensure delivery of high-quality special education and related services to students with visual disabilities or who are deaf or hard of hearing or deaf-blind through instructional methodologies meeting their unique learning needs, to enhance accountability for the provision of such services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. McKINLEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. STANTON, Mr. MOULTON, Miss RICE of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. RYAN, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, and Mr. NADLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To promote and ensure delivery of high-quality special education and related services to students with visual disabilities or who are deaf or hard of hearing or deaf-blind through instructional methodologies meeting their unique learning needs, to enhance accountability for the provision of such services, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES; TABLE OF CON-**
 2 **TENTS.**

3 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
 4 “Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act”.

5 (b) **REFERENCES.**—Except as otherwise expressly
 6 provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal
 7 is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of,
 8 a section or other provision, the reference shall be consid-
 9 ered to be made to a section or other provision of the Indi-
 10 viduals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400
 11 et seq.).

12 (c) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
 13 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; references; table of contents.
 Sec. 2. Purposes.
 Sec. 3. Findings.

TITLE I—IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SPECIAL EDU-
CATION AND RELATED SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE
DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

Subtitle A—General Provisions

Sec. 101. Identifying students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
 Sec. 102. State plans.
 Sec. 103. Evaluations.
 Sec. 104. Individualized education program team.
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 Sec. 107. Continuum of service delivery options.
 Sec. 108. Technical assistance for parents and educators of students who are
 deaf or hard of hearing.

Subtitle B—Improving the Effectiveness of Early Intervention for Deaf or
Hard of Hearing Infants and Toddlers and Their Families

Sec. 111. Qualified personnel.
 Sec. 112. Natural environment.
 Sec. 113. Content of plan.

Subtitle C—National Activities To Improve Education of Children With Disabilities

Sec. 121. Personnel development to improve services and results for children with disabilities.

TITLE II—IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH VISUAL DISABILITIES

Subtitle A—General Provisions

Sec. 201. Identifying students with visual disabilities.
 Sec. 202. State plans.
 Sec. 203. Evaluations.
 Sec. 204. Consideration of special factors.
 Sec. 205. Technical assistance for parents and educators of students with visual disabilities.

Subtitle B—Anne Sullivan Macy Center on Visual Disability and Educational Excellence

Sec. 211. Center establishment and mission.
 Sec. 212. Administration; eligibility; governance; structure.
 Sec. 213. Activities.
 Sec. 214. Authorization of appropriations and carryover.
 Sec. 215. Relationship to other programs and activities.

TITLE III—IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO ARE DEAF-BLIND

Subtitle A—General Provisions

Sec. 301. Identifying children who are deaf-blind.
 Sec. 302. Related services.
 Sec. 303. State plans.
 Sec. 304. Evaluations.
 Sec. 305. Consideration of special factors.
 Sec. 306. Technical assistance for parents and educators of children who are deaf-blind.
 Sec. 307. Conforming regulations.

Subtitle B—Improving the Effectiveness of Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers With Deaf-Blindness and Their Families

Sec. 311. Content of plan.

Subtitle C—National Activities To Improve the Education of Children With Disabilities

Sec. 321. Personnel development to improve services and results for children with disabilities; ensuring sufficient teachers of the deaf-blind and early intervention specialists.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

2 The purposes of this Act are as follows:

1 (1) To better ensure delivery of high quality
2 special education and related services to students
3 with visual disabilities or who are deaf or hard of
4 hearing or who are deaf-blind through specialized in-
5 structional services and methodologies designed to
6 meet their unique language, communication, and
7 learning needs.

8 (2) To better ensure delivery of high quality
9 early intervention services to infants and toddlers
10 who are deaf or hard of hearing or who are deaf-
11 blind and their families through specialized services
12 and methodologies designed to meet their unique
13 language, communication, and other developmental
14 needs.

15 (3) To foster the proliferation of research sup-
16 porting the development and evaluation of effective
17 and innovative assessments and instructional meth-
18 odologies consonant with the unique learning needs
19 of students with visual disabilities.

20 (4) To enhance accountability for the provision
21 of such services.

22 (5) To support the development of personnel
23 serving students with visual disabilities or who are
24 deaf or hard of hearing or who are deaf-blind.

1 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) When American author, Mark Twain, im-
4 mortalized Helen Keller’s teacher, Anne Sullivan
5 Macy, with the moniker “the miracle worker”, his
6 words, though meant as praise, reflect the mis-
7 conception that educating individuals with disabil-
8 ities is a nearly insurmountable task requiring ex-
9 traordinary feats performed by gifted and saintly
10 persons. Rather, the work of teaching children with
11 disabilities can and does occur when committed and
12 qualified but everyday special educators are properly
13 prepared and supported to practice their professions.
14 Yet, the educational systems within which they act
15 must also be held accountable for results.

16 (2) In 1817, Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet and a
17 deaf teacher, Laurent Clerc, opened the first Amer-
18 ican school for deaf students—the American School
19 for the Deaf—with young Alice Cogswell as its first
20 pupil. Ultimately the school grew into a national in-
21 stitution and the mother of many other schools. As
22 Alice demonstrated, deaf and hard of hearing chil-
23 dren can learn and achieve to high levels when they
24 have full access to language and communication; are
25 taught by professionals with specialized training;
26 and have access to educational placements that rec-

1 ognize and provide for their language, communica-
2 tion, social-emotional, and academic needs.

3 (3) Deaf and hard of hearing children who are
4 identified early and receive appropriate early inter-
5 vention from specialized, qualified providers achieve
6 higher language and communication outcomes. How-
7 ever, currently, early intervention services typically
8 are not provided in a timely manner and severe
9 shortages of specialized early intervention profes-
10 sionals result in many deaf and hard of hearing chil-
11 dren not reaching their developmental potential.
12 Similarly, research demonstrates that students with
13 visual disabilities are among the highest performing
14 students with disabilities in terms of academic
15 achievement, and yet they are among the least em-
16 ployed, even after successful accomplishment of post-
17 secondary academic objectives.

18 (4) Likewise, children who are deaf-blind have
19 the same capacity to learn and achieve as any other
20 children. However, they must have ongoing access to
21 the same environmental and educational information
22 that their sighted and hearing peers can access auto-
23 matically. These children require direct learning ex-
24 periences, including hands-on experiences and in-
25 tense involvement in educational routines and activi-

1 ties. They must receive specialized direct instruction
2 in their preferred mode of communication in a range
3 of academic and functional areas.

4 (5) Students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or
5 deaf-blind require more language and communica-
6 tion access and support to acquire skills than they
7 are currently receiving. It has been the U.S. Depart-
8 ment of Education’s position since 1992 that “[a]ny
9 educational setting that does not meet the commu-
10 nication and related needs of a child who is deaf
11 does not allow for the provision of [a Free Approp-
12 riate Public Education] and cannot be considered
13 the [Least Restrictive Environment] for that child”.

14 (6) Moreover, a principal way that sighted,
15 hearing students acquire knowledge and skills is
16 through incidental learning, naturally observing oth-
17 ers and the environment. Deficits in incidental learn-
18 ing leave students with sensory disabilities behind in
19 an array of skill areas. In addition to core aca-
20 demics, deaf and hard of hearing students, for exam-
21 ple, must also receive specialized instruction and
22 services designed to maximize their capacity to learn
23 effectively and live productively and independently.
24 Similarly, students who are blind or visually im-
25 paired must also receive instruction in the expanded

1 core curriculum, a comprehensive array of special-
2 ized instruction and services maximizing the capacity
3 of students with visual disabilities to learn effectively
4 and live productively and independently.

5 (7) The widespread use by States of Individuals
6 with Disabilities Education Act's disability cat-
7 egories has led to a sizable undercount of students
8 with sensory disabilities and, consequently, a lack of
9 recognition of the extent of the systemic need for the
10 delivery of appropriate instructional services meeting
11 their unique needs. This occurs in large measure be-
12 cause students with sensory disabilities who also
13 have additional disabilities are frequently formally
14 classified as having multiple disabilities. Con-
15 sequently, their vision, hearing, or concomitant vi-
16 sion and hearing disabilities and related support
17 needs are not fully acknowledged.

18 (8) Children who are deaf-blind should receive
19 one-to-one services from interveners, who have train-
20 ing and specialized skills in deaf-blindness.
21 Interveners play a critical role in the provision of a
22 Free and Appropriate Public Education, because
23 they provide access to the information these children
24 need in order to learn and develop concepts, to facili-
25 tate their communication development and inter-

1 actions in their preferred mode of communication,
2 and to promote their social and emotional well-being.

3 (9) A national resource in visual disabilities is
4 needed to supplement the work of State and local
5 educational agencies through student enrichment ac-
6 tivities; to support teachers of students with visual
7 impairments and related services personnel through
8 state-of-the-art continuing education opportunities;
9 and to spur the further advancement of instructional
10 services for students with visual disabilities through
11 scientific research and evidence-based best practices.

12 **TITLE I—IMPROVING THE EF-**
13 **FECTIVENESS OF SPECIAL**
14 **EDUCATION AND RELATED**
15 **SERVICES FOR STUDENTS**
16 **WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF**
17 **HEARING**

18 **Subtitle A—General Provisions**

19 **SEC. 101. IDENTIFYING STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF OR**
20 **HARD OF HEARING.**

21 (a) SERVING ALL CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR
22 HARD OF HEARING REGARDLESS OF CLASSIFICATION.—
23 Section 612(a)(3) (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(3)) is amended at
24 the end by adding the following:

1 “(C) SERVING CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF
2 OR HARD OF HEARING.—When a State classi-
3 fies children by disability, the State, in com-
4 plying with subsection (a), identifies, locates
5 and evaluates children who are deaf or hard of
6 hearing who are, or may be, classified in a dis-
7 ability category other than hearing impairment
8 and provides (without prejudice to such classi-
9 fication) special education and related services
10 to such children, including such services deter-
11 mined appropriate based on proper evaluation
12 as would be provided to children classified in
13 the State as deaf or hard of hearing.”.

14 (b) DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING.—Section
15 618 (20 U.S.C. 1418) is amended by adding at the end
16 the following:

17 “(e) ACCOUNTING FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEAR-
18 ING STUDENTS.—In addition to the data collection and
19 reporting requirements of subsections (a) through (d) and
20 subject to such provisions, the State and the Secretary of
21 the Interior shall, with respect to children classified in a
22 disability category other than hearing impairment or deaf-
23 ness, include the number and percentage of such children
24 in each disability category who are also deaf or hard of
25 hearing.”.

1 (c) CHILD WITH A DISABILITY.—Section
2 602(3)(A)(i) (20 U.S.C. 1401(3)(A)(i)) is amended—

3 (1) by inserting “who is deaf or hard of hearing
4 or” before “with intellectual disabilities,”; and

5 (2) by striking “hearing impairments (including
6 deafness),”.

7 **SEC. 102. STATE PLANS.**

8 Section 612 (20 U.S.C. 1412) is amended by adding
9 at the end the following:

10 “(g) ADDENDUM CONCERNING STUDENTS WHO ARE
11 DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the provi-
13 sions of subsection (c), a State shall not be deemed
14 in compliance with this section unless, not later than
15 two years after the date of the enactment of the
16 Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act, the
17 State files with the Secretary a written addendum to
18 the plan required by this section describing how the
19 State ensures that—

20 “(A) children who are deaf or hard of
21 hearing (regardless of the State’s use of dis-
22 ability categories or the extent to which deaf or
23 hard of hearing children may be classified in
24 disability categories other than hearing impair-
25 ment or deafness) are evaluated by qualified

professionals, using valid and reliable assessments, for such children's need for instruction and services meeting their unique language and communication, literacy, academic, social and related learning needs, including instruction which may be needed by children without disabilities or with other disabilities but which must be specifically designed, modified, or delivered to meet the unique language and communication and academic and related learning needs of children who are deaf or hard of hearing;

“(B) there is sufficient availability of personnel within the State qualified to provide the evaluation and instruction described in subparagraph (A) to all children within the State requiring such instruction; and

“(C) all children who are deaf or hard of hearing within the State who need special education and related services, whether or not such children have other disabilities, receive such instruction and are not being served solely in accordance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794).

1 “(2) CONTENTS.—In preparing the addendum
2 described in paragraph (1), the State shall—

3 “(A) specifically address how the State
4 meets the needs of deaf and hard of hearing
5 students to support appropriate, measurable
6 progress in language development, including
7 American Sign Language and spoken language
8 with or without visual supports, and including
9 the provision of school-related opportunities for
10 direct communications with peers and profes-
11 sional personnel in the child’s language and op-
12 portunities for direct instruction in the child’s
13 language, as well as instruction in audiology,
14 age appropriate career education, communica-
15 tion and language, social skills, functional skills
16 for academic success, self-determination and ad-
17 vocacy (including preparation for transition to
18 work or higher education), social emotional
19 skills, technology, and support for the student
20 through family education; and

21 “(B) consult with individuals and organiza-
22 tions with expertise in the education of children
23 who are deaf or hard of hearing, including par-
24 ents, schools for the deaf, consumer and advo-
25 cacy organizations, State commissions of the

1 deaf, researchers, teachers of students who are
2 deaf or hard of hearing, and others the State
3 may identify.”.

4 **SEC. 103. EVALUATIONS.**

5 Section 614(b) (20 U.S.C. 1414(b)) is amended by
6 adding at the end the following:

7 “(7) CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF
8 HEARING.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the as-
10 sessments prescribed in paragraph (3)(B), chil-
11 dren who are deaf or hard of hearing (including
12 children who may have additional disabilities)
13 shall be evaluated on language and communica-
14 tion proficiency levels, including expressive, re-
15 ceptive, and pragmatic skills, and ability to ac-
16 cess grade level content in the student’s pri-
17 mary language, including American Sign Lan-
18 guage and spoken language with or without vis-
19 ual supports or hearing assistance technology,
20 and written English. Determination of the need
21 for special education and related services shall
22 include evaluation of such children’s unique
23 learning needs, including needs for direct com-
24 munication, without an intermediary such as an
25 interpreter, with peers and professionals in the

1 child's primary language, including American
2 Sign Language and spoken language with or
3 without visual supports, and instruction which
4 may be needed by students without disabilities
5 or with other disabilities but which must be spe-
6 cifically designed, modified, or delivered to meet
7 the unique learning needs of students who are
8 deaf or hard of hearing.

9 “(B) CONTENT OF EVALUATIONS.—The
10 evaluations described in subparagraph (A) shall,
11 at a minimum, include evaluations assessing the
12 need for services and settings to assist the child
13 in developing or maintaining age appropriate
14 language and communication levels in the stu-
15 dent's primary language, including American
16 Sign Language and spoken language with or
17 without visual supports, social development, lit-
18 eracy instruction, instruction in assistive tech-
19 nology proficiency, self sufficiency and inter-
20 action self-determination, socialization, recre-
21 ation and fitness, and independent living skills,
22 and age appropriate career education.”.

23 **SEC. 104. INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM TEAM.**

24 Section 614(d)(1)(B) (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)(1)(B)) is
25 amended—

1 (1) in clause (v), by striking “(vi);” and insert-
 2 ing “(vii);”;

3 (2) in clause (vi), by striking “and” at the end;

4 (3) by redesignating clause (vii) as clause (viii);

5 and

6 (4) by inserting after clause (vi) the following:

7 “(vii) at the discretion of the parent
 8 or the agency, a representative of a State-
 9 operated, State-supported, or State-aided
 10 school for the deaf; and”.

11 **SEC. 105. CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL FACTORS.**

12 Section 614(d)(3)(B)(iv) (20 U.S.C.
 13 1414(d)(3)(B)(iv)) is amended to read as follows:

14 “(iv) consider the communication
 15 needs of the child, and in the case of a
 16 child who is deaf or hard of hearing, pro-
 17 vide for—

18 “(I) the child’s language and
 19 communication needs, opportunities
 20 for direct communications, without an
 21 intermediary such as an interpreter,
 22 with peers and professional personnel
 23 in the child’s primary language and
 24 communication mode, including Amer-
 25 ican Sign Language and spoken lan-

1 guage with or without visual supports,
2 academic level, and full range of
3 needs, including opportunities for di-
4 rect instruction in the child's lan-
5 guage; and

6 “(II) instruction meeting the
7 child's unique learning needs, includ-
8 ing services and settings to assist the
9 child in developing or maintaining age
10 appropriate language and communica-
11 tion levels in the student's primary
12 language and communication mode,
13 including American Sign Language
14 and spoken language with or without
15 visual supports, literacy instruction,
16 instruction which may be needed by
17 students without disabilities or with
18 other disabilities but which must be
19 specifically designed, modified, or de-
20 livered to meet the unique learning
21 needs of students who are deaf or
22 hard of hearing. Such instruction in-
23 cludes assistive technology proficiency;
24 self sufficiency and interaction, self-
25 determination, socialization, inde-

1 pendent living skills, and age appro-
 2 priate career education;”.

3 **SEC. 106. MONITORING.**

4 Section 616(a) (20 U.S.C. 1416(a)) is amended by
 5 adding at the end the following:

6 “(5) ENHANCED MONITORING OF SERVICES
 7 FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS.—In carrying out the re-
 8 sponsibilities of this subsection, the Secretary shall
 9 specifically monitor compliance with sections
 10 612(a)(3), 612(a)(5), 614(b), and clauses (iii) and
 11 (iv) of section 614(d)(3)(B), as such sections are
 12 amended by the Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan
 13 Macy Act, and shall regularly report findings to the
 14 Congress.”.

15 **SEC. 107. CONTINUUM OF SERVICE DELIVERY OPTIONS.**

16 (a) ENSURING CONTINUUM AVAILABILITY.—Section
 17 612(a)(5) (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(5)) is amended by adding
 18 at the end the following:

19 “(C) CONTINUUM OF ALTERNATIVE
 20 PLACEMENTS.—The State shall ensure that a
 21 full continuum of alternative placements is
 22 available to meet the needs of children with dis-
 23 abilities for special education and related serv-
 24 ices. Such continuum must include instruction
 25 in regular classes, special classes, special

1 schools, home instruction, and instruction in
 2 hospitals and institutions, and must make pro-
 3 vision for supplementary services (such as re-
 4 source room or itinerant instruction) to be pro-
 5 vided in conjunction with regular class place-
 6 ment.”.

7 (b) MAINTENANCE OF SPECIALIZED SERVICES AND
 8 SETTINGS FOR STUDENTS WITH SENSORY DISABIL-
 9 ITIES.—Section 612(a)(18) (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(18)) is
 10 amended by adding at the end the following:

11 “(E) MAINTAINING A CONTINUUM OF
 12 PLACEMENT OPTIONS.—A State’s closure of a
 13 special school serving children who are blind or
 14 a special school serving children who are deaf
 15 (or the consolidation or merger of such school
 16 with another school), shall be considered a re-
 17 duction of the State’s financial support for spe-
 18 cial education and related services within the
 19 meaning of subparagraph (A).”.

20 **SEC. 108. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PARENTS AND EDU-**
 21 **CATORS OF STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF OR**
 22 **HARD OF HEARING.**

23 Section 616 (20 U.S.C. 1416) is amended by adding
 24 at the end the following:

1 “(j) MAINTAINING CURRENT DEAF STUDENTS EDU-
 2 CATION SERVICE POLICY GUIDANCE.—The Secretary
 3 shall ensure that not later than one year after the date
 4 of the enactment of the Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan
 5 Macy Act (and periodically thereafter but at least within
 6 five-year intervals), policy guidance concerning the provi-
 7 sion of special education and related services to deaf and
 8 hard of hearing students (published in the Federal Reg-
 9 ister on October 26, 1992) is reviewed and updated (with
 10 particular attention to explanation of relevant amend-
 11 ments to this Act or to its implementing regulations) and
 12 is published in the Federal Register.”.

13 **Subtitle B—Improving the Effec-**
 14 **tiveness of Early Intervention**
 15 **for Deaf or Hard of Hearing In-**
 16 **fants and Toddlers and Their**
 17 **Families**

18 **SEC. 111. QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.**

19 Section 632(4)(F) (20 U.S.C. 1432(4)(F)) is amend-
 20 ed—

21 (1) in clause (xi), by striking “and” at the end;

22 (2) in clause (xii), by adding “and” at the end;

23 and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(xiii) teachers of infants and toddlers
2 with sensory disabilities;”.

3 **SEC. 112. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.**

4 Section 632(4)(G) (20 U.S.C. 1432(4)(G)) is amend-
5 ed to read as follows:

6 “(G) to the maximum extent appropriate,
7 are provided in natural environments, including
8 the home, and community settings in which
9 children without disabilities participate. For in-
10 fants and toddlers with sensory disabilities,
11 such as deafness, blindness, or deaf-blindness,
12 the natural environment shall include—

13 “(i) specialized schools, centers, and
14 other programs where the child’s language,
15 including American Sign Language and
16 spoken language with or without visual
17 supports, is the primary language and
18 mode of communication; or

19 “(ii) any other environment where
20 services meeting unique needs are avail-
21 able; and”.

22 **SEC. 113. CONTENT OF PLAN.**

23 Section 636(d)(3) (20 U.S.C. 1436(d)(3)) is amended
24 by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the fol-
25 lowing: “and, in the case of an infant or toddler who is

1 deaf or hard of hearing, a statement of the ongoing lan-
 2 guage and communication assessment that will be pro-
 3 vided to the child, language and communication develop-
 4 ment goals commensurate with the child’s cognitive abili-
 5 ties, the language and communication access that will be
 6 provided, including ongoing opportunities for direct lan-
 7 guage learning and communication access to peers, early
 8 intervention service providers, and other professional per-
 9 sonnel in the child’s language, including American Sign
 10 Language and spoken language with or without visual
 11 supports, and the support and instruction that will be pro-
 12 vided to families to learn and support the child’s language
 13 and communication mode;”.

14 **Subtitle C—National Activities To**
 15 **Improve Education of Children**
 16 **With Disabilities**

17 **SEC. 121. PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT TO IMPROVE SERV-**
 18 **ICES AND RESULTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DIS-**
 19 **ABILITIES.**

20 (a) LICENSING OF EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETERS.—
 21 Section 662(c)(2)(E) (20 U.S.C. 1462(c)(2)(E)) is
 22 amended to read as follows:

23 “(E) Preparing personnel to be qualified
 24 educational interpreters, as licensed by the ap-
 25 propriate licensing body, to assist children with

1 low incidence disabilities, particularly deaf and
2 hard of hearing children, in school and school
3 related activities, and deaf and hard of hearing
4 infants and toddlers and preschool children in
5 early intervention and preschool programs.”.

6 (b) ENSURING SUFFICIENT TEACHERS OF THE DEAF
7 AND EARLY INTERVENTION SPECIALISTS.—Section
8 662(c)(2) (20 U.S.C. 1462(c)(2)) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (F) and
10 (G) as subparagraphs (G) and (H), respectively; and
11 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(F) Preparing personnel to be qualified
14 teachers of the deaf and early intervention spe-
15 cialists, to assist children with low incidence
16 disabilities, particularly deaf and hard of hear-
17 ing children, to develop age appropriate lan-
18 guage, including American Sign Language and
19 spoken language with or without visual sup-
20 ports, and age appropriate literacy skills in
21 school and school related activities, and deaf
22 and hard of hearing infants and toddlers and
23 preschool children in early intervention and pre-
24 school programs.”.

1 **TITLE II—IMPROVING THE EF-**
2 **FECTIVENESS OF SPECIAL**
3 **EDUCATION AND RELATED**
4 **SERVICES FOR STUDENTS**
5 **WITH VISUAL DISABILITIES**
6 **Subtitle A—General Provisions**

7 **SEC. 201. IDENTIFYING STUDENTS WITH VISUAL DISABIL-**
8 **ITIES.**

9 (a) SERVING ALL CHILDREN WITH VISUAL DISABIL-
10 ITIES REGARDLESS OF CLASSIFICATION.—Section
11 612(a)(3) (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(3)), as amended by section
12 101 of this Act, is further amended at the end by adding
13 the following:

14 “(D) SERVING CHILDREN WITH VISUAL
15 DISABILITIES.—When a State classifies children
16 by disability, the State, in complying with sub-
17 section (a), identifies, locates and evaluates
18 children with visual disabilities who are, or may
19 be, classified in a disability category other than
20 blindness and provides (without prejudice to
21 such classification) special education and re-
22 lated services to such children, including such
23 services determined appropriate based on prop-
24 er evaluation as would be provided to children
25 classified in the State as having blindness.”.

1 (b) DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING.—Section
2 618 (20 U.S.C. 1418), as amended by section 101 of this
3 Act, is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(f) ACCOUNTING FOR VISUAL DISABILITIES.—In
6 addition to the data collection and reporting requirements
7 of subsections (a) through (d) and subject to such provi-
8 sions, the State and the Secretary of the Interior shall,
9 with respect to children classified in a disability category
10 other than blindness, include the number and percentage
11 of such children in each disability category who are also
12 blind or otherwise have visual disabilities.”.

13 **SEC. 202. STATE PLANS.**

14 Section 612 (20 U.S.C. 1412), as amended by section
15 102 of this Act, is further amended at the end by adding
16 the following:

17 “(h) ADDENDUM CONCERNING STUDENTS WITH
18 VISUAL DISABILITIES.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the provi-
20 sions of subsection (c), a State shall not be deemed
21 in compliance with this section unless, not later than
22 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Alice
23 Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act, the State
24 files with the Secretary a written addendum to the

1 plan required by this section describing how the
2 State ensures that—

3 “(A) children with visual disabilities (re-
4 gardless of the State’s use of disability cat-
5 egories or the extent to which children with vis-
6 ual disabilities may be classified in disability
7 categories other than blindness) are evaluated
8 for such children’s need for instruction and
9 services meeting their unique academic and re-
10 lated learning needs, including instruction
11 which may be needed by children without dis-
12 abilities or with other disabilities but which
13 must be specifically designed, modified, or deliv-
14 ered to meet the unique academic and related
15 learning needs of children with visual disabil-
16 ities;

17 “(B) there is sufficient availability of per-
18 sonnel within the State qualified to provide the
19 instruction described in subparagraph (A) to all
20 children within the State requiring such in-
21 struction; and

22 “(C) all children with visual disabilities
23 within the State who need special education and
24 related services, whether or not such children
25 have other disabilities, receive such instruction

1 and are not being served solely in accordance
2 with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of
3 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794).

4 “(2) CONTENTS.—In preparing the addendum
5 described in paragraph (1), the State shall—

6 “(A) specifically address how the State
7 meets the needs of students with visual disabili-
8 ties for instruction in communication and pro-
9 ductivity (including Braille instruction and as-
10 sistive technology proficiency); self sufficiency
11 and interaction (including orientation and mo-
12 bility, self-determination, sensory efficiency, so-
13 cialization, recreation and fitness, and inde-
14 pendent living skills); and age appropriate ca-
15 reer education;

16 “(B) describe both the methods to be used
17 within the State to properly evaluate students’
18 need for low vision devices and the process by
19 which such devices will be provided to each stu-
20 dent for whom such devices are determined ap-
21 propriate by the IEP team; and

22 “(C) consult with individuals and organiza-
23 tions with expertise in the education of children
24 with visual disabilities, including parents, con-
25 sumer and advocacy organizations, and teachers

1 of students with visual impairments and others
2 the State may identify.”.

3 **SEC. 203. EVALUATIONS.**

4 Section 614(b) (20 U.S.C. 1414(b)), as amended by
5 section 103 of this Act, is further amended by adding at
6 the end the following new paragraph:

7 “(8) VISUAL DISABILITIES.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the as-
9 sessments prescribed in paragraph (3)(B), de-
10 termination of the need of children with visual
11 disabilities (including children who may have
12 additional disabilities) for special education and
13 related services shall include evaluation of such
14 children’s unique learning needs, including
15 needs for instruction which may be needed by
16 students without disabilities or with other dis-
17 abilities but which must be specifically de-
18 signed, modified, or delivered to meet the
19 unique learning needs of students with visual
20 disabilities.

21 “(B) CONTENT OF EVALUATIONS.—The
22 evaluations described in subparagraph (A) shall,
23 at a minimum, include evaluations assessing the
24 need for instruction in assistive technology pro-
25 ficiency (inclusive of low vision devices), self

1 sufficiency and interaction (including orienta-
2 tion and mobility, self-determination, sensory
3 efficiency, socialization, recreation and fitness,
4 and independent living skills), and age-appro-
5 priate career education.”.

6 **SEC. 204. CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL FACTORS.**

7 Section 614(d)(3)(B)(iii) (20 U.S.C.
8 1414(d)(3)(B)(iii)) is amended by striking the semicolon
9 and inserting the following: “and provide instruction meet-
10 ing the child’s unique learning needs, including instruction
11 which may be needed by students without disabilities or
12 with other disabilities but which must be specifically de-
13 signed, modified, or delivered to meet the unique learning
14 needs of students with visual disabilities. Such instruction
15 includes assistive technology proficiency (inclusive of low
16 vision devices); self sufficiency and interaction (including
17 orientation and mobility, self-determination, sensory effi-
18 ciency, socialization, recreation and fitness, and inde-
19 pendent living skills); and age appropriate career edu-
20 cation;”.

1 **SEC. 205. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PARENTS AND EDU-**
 2 **CATORS OF STUDENTS WITH VISUAL DISABIL-**
 3 **ITIES.**

4 Section 616 (20 U.S.C. 1416), as amended by section
 5 108 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end
 6 the following:

7 “(k) MAINTAINING CURRENT POLICY GUIDANCE FOR
 8 PARENTS AND EDUCATORS OF STUDENTS WITH VISUAL
 9 DISABILITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that not later
 10 than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Alice
 11 Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act (and periodically
 12 thereafter but at least within 5-year intervals), policy
 13 guidance concerning the provision of special education and
 14 related services to students with visual disabilities (last
 15 published in the Federal Register on June 8, 2000) is re-
 16 viewed and updated (with particular attention to expla-
 17 nation of relevant amendments to the Alice Cogswell and
 18 Anne Sullivan Macy Act or to its implementing regula-
 19 tions) and is published in the Federal Register.”.

20 **Subtitle B—Anne Sullivan Macy**
 21 **Center on Visual Disability and**
 22 **Educational Excellence**

23 **SEC. 211. CENTER ESTABLISHMENT AND MISSION.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
 25 the Department of Education a national program named
 26 the Anne Sullivan Macy Center on Visual Disability and

1 Educational Excellence which shall carry out the activities
2 described in section 213 in furtherance of the mission de-
3 scribed in subsection (b).

4 (b) MISSION.—The mission of the program estab-
5 lished in subsection (a) is to better support students with
6 visual disabilities receiving special education and related
7 services to learn effectively and live productively and inde-
8 pendently through—

9 (1) development and dissemination of curricula,
10 courses, materials, and methods supporting the con-
11 tinuing education of personnel qualified under State
12 law to serve as teachers of students with visual im-
13 pairments and related services personnel serving
14 such children;

15 (2) support for the establishment of new pro-
16 grams within institutions of higher education to pre-
17 pare teachers of students with visual impairments to
18 serve students with visual disabilities who also have
19 additional disabilities;

20 (3) model local, regional, and national enrich-
21 ment projects open to students with visual disabili-
22 ties intended to supplement State and local edu-
23 cational agency provision of specialized instruction
24 and services meeting such students' unique learning
25 needs; and

1 (4) research identifying, developing, and evalu-
2 ating valid assessments and effective interventions
3 measuring and addressing the unique needs of stu-
4 dents with visual disabilities, including need for in-
5 struction and services which may be needed by stu-
6 dents without disabilities or with other disabilities
7 but which must be specifically designed, modified, or
8 delivered to meet the unique learning needs of stu-
9 dents with visual disabilities. At a minimum, such
10 instruction and services include communication and
11 productivity (including braille instruction, and as-
12 sistive technology proficiency inclusive of low vision
13 devices); self sufficiency and interaction (including
14 orientation and mobility, self-determination, sensory
15 efficiency, socialization, recreation and fitness, and
16 independent living skills); and age appropriate career
17 education.

18 **SEC. 212. ADMINISTRATION; ELIGIBILITY; GOVERNANCE;**
19 **STRUCTURE.**

20 (a) ADMINISTRATION.—To carry out the provisions
21 of section 211, the Secretary of Education shall enter into
22 a contract or cooperative agreement (of no less than 5
23 years in duration) with a consortium of entities described
24 in subsection (b) which shall, with oversight by the Sec-
25 retary, have primary responsibility for administering the

1 program described in this subtitle. The Secretary shall
2 have ongoing authority to enter into such contracts or co-
3 operative agreements.

4 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—The consortium of entities de-
5 scribed in subsection (a) shall include—

6 (1) at least two national nonprofit organizations
7 with demonstrated experience publishing materials,
8 offering direct professional development opportuni-
9 ties, and disseminating course curricula supporting
10 the preparation or continuing education of teachers
11 of students with visual impairments and related
12 services personnel;

13 (2) at least one national nonprofit organization
14 (which may include a special school serving students
15 who are blind) with demonstrated experience directly
16 serving students with visual disabilities (including
17 students who may or may not have additional dis-
18 abilities) through in-person instruction and services
19 meeting their unique learning needs;

20 (3) at least one institution of higher education
21 that—

22 (A) has consistently maintained for at
23 least ten years a program of instruction pre-
24 paring teachers of students with visual impair-

1 ments or orientation and mobility instructors;
2 and

3 (B) offers a program of doctoral study in
4 special education; and

5 (4) any other entity or entities with which the
6 entities described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3)
7 choose to partner (with approval of the Secretary).

8 (c) GOVERNANCE.—As part of the Secretary’s over-
9 sight responsibilities, the Secretary shall appoint an advi-
10 sory board (of no more than 12 individual members who
11 do not have a concurrent fiscal, fiduciary, or employment
12 relationship with any of the entities comprising the consor-
13 tium described in subsection (b)) which shall advise the
14 Secretary and such consortium of entities with respect to
15 strategic planning and annual program performance. The
16 advisory board shall be comprised of individuals with per-
17 sonal or professional experience with the needs of students
18 with visual disabilities and shall include parents of stu-
19 dents with visual disabilities, administrators of special
20 education programs, and representatives of national orga-
21 nizations of individuals who are blind or visually impaired.
22 The Secretary is authorized to compensate the members
23 of the advisory board for reasonable expenses incurred for
24 travel related to in-person meetings of the advisory board
25 which shall occur no more frequently than three times

1 within a calendar year. The provisions of the Federal Ad-
2 visory Committee Act shall not apply to meetings or other
3 activities of the advisory board. Prior to the appointment
4 of any individual to the advisory board, the Secretary shall
5 consult with such consortium of entities which may also
6 nominate individuals to the Secretary for advisory board
7 membership.

8 (d) STRUCTURE.—The Secretary, as part of the con-
9 tract or cooperative agreement described in subsection (a),
10 shall ensure that such contract or cooperative agreement
11 specifies any and all necessary fiscal and other responsibil-
12 ities between and among the entities described in sub-
13 section (b) whom shall propose such responsibilities to the
14 Secretary in an application for award of such contract or
15 cooperative agreement containing such information as the
16 Secretary may require.

17 **SEC. 213. ACTIVITIES.**

18 Subject to the provisions of this subtitle, the Anne
19 Sullivan Macy Center on Visual Disability and Edu-
20 cational Excellence is authorized—

21 (1) to conduct or fund original quantitative and
22 qualitative research and publish or otherwise dis-
23 seminate such research;

24 (2) to conduct or fund in-person and online
25 continuing education opportunities for teachers of

1 students with visual impairments and related serv-
2 ices personnel specifically trained to meet the unique
3 learning needs of such students, and prepare, pub-
4 lish or otherwise disseminate supporting materials;

5 (3) to conduct or fund in-person or online en-
6 richment projects for students with visual disabilities
7 (including those who may also have additional dis-
8 abilities) to offer direct instruction and services in-
9 tended to improve the capacity of such students to
10 learn effectively and live both productively and inde-
11 pendently for the purpose of—

12 (A) supplementing the availability of such
13 instruction and services offered by State and
14 local educational agencies; and

15 (B) evaluating, through appropriate quan-
16 titative and qualitative methods, the effective-
17 ness of instruction and services offered by such
18 projects;

19 (4) to fund, in accordance with regulations oth-
20 erwise applicable to personnel preparation programs
21 supported under part D of the Individuals with Dis-
22 abilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1450 et seq.), the
23 establishment of programs within institutions of
24 higher education preparing teachers of students with
25 visual impairments (which have not been previously

1 funded under such part) to specifically prepare such
2 teachers to provide expert instruction to students
3 with visual disabilities who also have additional dis-
4 abilities; and

5 (5) to enter into cooperative agreements, con-
6 tracts, grants (or other arrangements which may be
7 permitted by the Secretary) with nonprofit organiza-
8 tions possessing demonstrable expertise and experi-
9 ence serving students with visual disabilities or the
10 professionals trained to work with such students, in-
11 stitutions of higher education, State and local edu-
12 cational agencies, public and private specialized
13 schools serving students with visual disabilities, and
14 consortia of such entities, for the purpose of car-
15 rying out activities authorized in this subsection that
16 are not otherwise directly conducted, in whole or in
17 part, by the Anne Sullivan Macy Center.

18 **SEC. 214. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CAR-**
19 **RYOVER.**

20 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
21 out the provisions of this subtitle, there are authorized to
22 be appropriated such sums as may be necessary, except
23 that for fiscal year 2021 and for each succeeding fiscal
24 year, the amount appropriated shall be an amount equal
25 to no less than 0.2 percent of funds appropriated in the

1 previous fiscal year for grants to States under part B of
2 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

3 (b) CARRYOVER.—Funds appropriated pursuant to
4 subsection (a) that have not been expended during the fis-
5 cal year for which they were appropriated shall remain
6 available in the subsequent fiscal year, provided that no
7 more than 15 percent of a given fiscal year's appropriation
8 may be so carried over.

9 **SEC. 215. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROGRAMS AND AC-**
10 **TIVITIES.**

11 (a) MAXIMIZING RESOURCES.—No funds made avail-
12 able pursuant to this subtitle may be used to fund pro-
13 grams or activities otherwise concurrently funded under
14 parts D and E of the Individuals with Disabilities Edu-
15 cation Act.

16 (b) COORDINATION OF RESEARCH.—The Secretary
17 shall ensure that research activities authorized and carried
18 out pursuant to this title are conducted or funded in co-
19 ordination as appropriate with the National Center for
20 Special Education Research and other divisions within the
21 Department of Education responsible for research activi-
22 ties.

23 (c) RELATIONSHIP TO SERVICES OFFERED BY THE
24 AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND.—Nothing
25 in this subtitle shall be construed to limit or otherwise con-

dition the use of any funds appropriated pursuant to chapter 6 of title 20, United States Code, and no funds made available pursuant to this subtitle shall be used by any State or local educational agency to supplant the use of funds appropriated under such chapter.

(d) RELATIONSHIP TO FUNDING FOR NATIONAL CENTER ON DEAF-BLINDNESS, STATE DEAF-BLIND PROJECTS, AND THE HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER.—The Secretary shall ensure that any activities conducted or funded by the Anne Sullivan Macy Center directly serving individuals who are deaf-blind are coordinated as appropriate with the National Center on Deaf-Blindness, State deaf-blind projects, and the Helen Keller National Center. No funds made available pursuant to this title may be used to support or supplant activities that are otherwise the sole responsibility of the National Center on Deaf-Blindness and State deaf-blind projects pursuant to sections 663(c)(8)(A) and 682(d)(1)(A) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1463(c)(8)(A); 20 U.S.C. 1482(d)(1)(A)). No funds made available pursuant to this title may be used to support activities that are otherwise the sole responsibility of the Helen Keller National Center or may be used to supplant funds for such Center.

1 (e) WORK PRODUCT.—All matter produced by the
 2 Anne Sullivan Macy Center shall be the property of the
 3 United States Government, except that entities comprising
 4 the consortium of entities described in section 212(b) shall
 5 be individually free, within the terms of the contract or
 6 cooperative agreement described in section 212(a), to re-
 7 produce, or author copyrighted derivative works, using
 8 such matter.

9 **TITLE III—IMPROVING THE EF-**
 10 **FECTIVENESS OF SPECIAL**
 11 **EDUCATION AND RELATED**
 12 **SERVICES FOR CHILDREN**
 13 **AND YOUTH WHO ARE DEAF-**
 14 **BLIND**

15 **Subtitle A—General Provisions**

16 **SEC. 301. IDENTIFYING CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF-BLIND.**

17 (a) SERVING ALL CHILDREN WITH DEAF-BLIND-
 18 NESS REGARDLESS OF CLASSIFICATION.—Section
 19 612(a)(3) (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(3)), as amended by sections
 20 101 and 201 of this Act, is further amended by adding
 21 at the end the following:

22 “(E) SERVING CHILDREN WITH DEAF-
 23 BLINDNESS.—When a State classifies children
 24 by disability, the State, in complying with sub-
 25 section (a), identifies, locates and evaluates

1 children with concomitant vision and hearing
2 losses who are, or may be, classified in a dis-
3 ability category other than deaf-blindness,
4 meaning concomitant hearing and visual im-
5 pairments, the combination of which causes se-
6 vere communication and other developmental
7 and educational needs that adversely affect a
8 child's educational performance (and including
9 children who are deaf-blind with additional dis-
10 abilities), and provides (without prejudice to
11 such classification) special education and re-
12 lated services to such children, including such
13 services determined appropriate based on prop-
14 er evaluation as would be provided to children
15 classified in the State as having deaf-blind-
16 ness.”.

17 (b) DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING.—Section
18 618 (20 U.S.C. 1418) is amended by adding at the end
19 the following:

20 “(g) ACCOUNTING FOR CHILDREN WITH DEAF-
21 BLINDNESS.—In addition to the data collection and re-
22 porting requirements of subsections (a) through (d) and
23 subject to such provisions, the State and the Secretary of
24 the Interior shall, with respect to children classified in a
25 disability category other than deaf-blindness, include the

1 number and percentage of such children in each disability
2 category who are also deaf-blind.”.

3 (c) CHILD WITH A DISABILITY.—Section
4 602(3)(A)(i) (20 U.S.C. 1401(3)(A)(i)) is amended by
5 adding after “visual impairments (including blindness)”
6 the term “deaf-blindness,” and continuing with “serious
7 emotional disturbance . . .”.

8 **SEC. 302. RELATED SERVICES.**

9 Section 602(26)(A) (20 U.S.C. 1401(26)(A)) is
10 amended by inserting “, and intervener services, which are
11 provided to children who are deaf-blind by a qualified in-
12 tervener” after “for diagnostic and evaluation purposes
13 only”.

14 **SEC. 303. STATE PLANS.**

15 Section 612 (20 U.S.C. 1412) is amended by adding
16 at the end the following:

17 “(i) ADDENDUM CONCERNING CHILDREN WHO ARE
18 DEAF-BLIND.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the provi-
20 sions of subsection (c), a State shall not be deemed
21 in compliance with this section unless, not later than
22 two years after the date of the enactment of the
23 Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act, the
24 State files with the Secretary a written addendum to

1 the plan required by this section describing how the
2 State ensures that—

3 “(A) children with deaf-blindness (regard-
4 less of the State’s use of disability categories or
5 the extent to which children with deaf-blindness
6 may be classified in disability categories other
7 than deaf-blindness) are evaluated by qualified
8 professionals including teachers of deaf-blind,
9 using valid and reliable assessments, for such
10 children’s need for instruction and services
11 meeting their unique language and communica-
12 tion, literacy, academic, social and related
13 learning needs, including instruction which may
14 be needed by children without disabilities or
15 with other disabilities but which must be spe-
16 cifically designed, modified, or delivered to meet
17 the unique language and communication, aca-
18 demic, and related learning needs of children
19 with deaf-blindness;

20 “(B) there is sufficient availability of per-
21 sonnel, including teachers of the deaf-blind and
22 interveners, within the State qualified to pro-
23 vide the evaluation, instruction, and services de-
24 scribed in subparagraph (A) to all children
25 within the State requiring such instruction; and

1 “(C) all children with deaf-blindness within
2 the State who need special education and re-
3 lated services, whether or not such children
4 have other disabilities, receive such instruction
5 and are not being served solely in accordance
6 with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of
7 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794).

8 “(2) CONTENTS.—In preparing the addendum
9 described in paragraph (1), the State shall—

10 “(A) specifically address how the State
11 meets the needs of children with deaf-blindness
12 to support ongoing progress in language devel-
13 opment and in the child’s preferred mode of
14 communication, and including the provision of
15 school-related opportunities for direct commu-
16 nications with peers and professional personnel
17 in the child’s preferred mode of communication
18 and opportunities for direct instruction in (but
19 not limited to) concept development, functional
20 skills for academic success, self-determination
21 and advocacy, social-emotional skills, visual and
22 auditory sensory efficiency skills, orientation
23 and mobility, assistive technology proficiency,
24 independent living skills, age-appropriate career

1 education, and support for the student through
2 family education; and

3 “(B) consult with individuals and organiza-
4 tions with expertise in the education of children
5 with deaf-blindness including parents, con-
6 sumers, advocacy organizations, national and
7 State organizations focused on deaf-blindness
8 and others the State may identify.”.

9 **SEC. 304. EVALUATIONS.**

10 Section 614(b) (20 U.S.C. 1414(b)) is amended by
11 adding at the end the following:

12 “(9) CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF-BLIND.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the as-
14 sessments prescribed in paragraph (3)(B), chil-
15 dren who are deaf-blind (including children who
16 may have additional disabilities) shall be evalu-
17 ated on language and communication pro-
18 ficiency levels, including expressive, receptive,
19 and pragmatic skills, and ability to access grade
20 level content in the child’s preferred mode of
21 communication, including non-symbolic and
22 symbolic communication and tactile sign lan-
23 guage. Qualified personnel trained in deaf-
24 blindness, who communicate in the child’s pre-
25 ferred mode of communication, shall be actively

involved in assessments and evaluations. Also, requirements included in paragraphs (7)(A) and (8)(A) shall apply to children with deaf-blindness.

“(B) CONTENT OF EVALUATIONS.—The evaluations described in subparagraph (A) shall, at a minimum, include evaluations assessing the need for services and supports to assist children who are deaf-blind in developing and maintaining language and communication skills in their preferred mode of communication, including non-symbolic and symbolic communication and tactile sign language. Other areas of evaluation for children who are deaf-blind shall include those found in paragraphs (7)(B) and (8)(B).”.

SEC. 305. CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL FACTORS.

Section 614(d)(3)(B) (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)(3)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by redesignating clause (v) as clause (vi);

and

(3) by inserting after clause (iv) the following:

“(v) in the case of a child who is deaf-blind, provide for the child’s language and communication needs, including, but not

1 limited to, tactile sign language, tactile and
 2 visual adaptations to sign and
 3 fingerspelling, and object and tangible
 4 symbol systems. Also, requirements in-
 5 cluded in sections 614(d)(3)(B)(iii) and
 6 614(d)(3)(B)(iv) shall apply to children
 7 with deaf-blindness; and”.

8 **SEC. 306. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PARENTS AND EDU-**
 9 **CATORS OF CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF-**
 10 **BLIND.**

11 Section 616 (20 U.S.C. 1416) is amended by adding
 12 at the end the following:

13 “(l) DEVELOPING POLICY GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS
 14 AND EDUCATORS OF CHILDREN WITH DEAF-BLIND-
 15 NESS.—The Secretary shall ensure that not later than one
 16 year after the date of the enactment of the Alice Cogswell
 17 and Anne Sullivan Macy Act policy guidance concerning
 18 the provision of special education and related services to
 19 children who are deaf-blind is developed (and periodically
 20 thereafter but at least within five-year intervals, updated)
 21 with particular attention to explanation of relevant amend-
 22 ments to this Act or to its implementing regulations and
 23 is published in the Federal Register.”.

1 **SEC. 307. CONFORMING REGULATIONS.**

2 Section 617 (20 U.S.C. 1417) is amended by adding
3 at the end the following:

4 “(f) Not later than one year after the date of the
5 enactment of the Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy
6 Act, the Secretary shall, after notice and comment, publish
7 regulations that provide definitions for ‘deaf-blindness’
8 and ‘intervener services’.”.

9 **Subtitle B—Improving the Effec-**
10 **tiveness of Early Intervention**
11 **for Infants and Toddlers With**
12 **Deaf-Blindness and Their Fami-**
13 **lies**

14 **SEC. 311. CONTENT OF PLAN.**

15 Section 636(d)(3) (20 U.S.C. 1436(d)(3)) is amended
16 by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the fol-
17 lowing: “and, in the case of an infant or toddler who is
18 deaf-blind, a statement of the ongoing language and com-
19 munication assessment that will be provided to the child,
20 language and communication development goals commensurate with the child’s cognitive abilities, the language and
21 communication access that will be provided, including on-
22 going opportunities for direct language learning and com-
23 munication access to peers, early intervention service pro-
24 viders, and other professional personnel trained in the
25 child’s preferred mode of communication, and the support
26

1 and instruction that will be provided to families to learn
 2 and support the child’s language and communication mode
 3 and the child’s full range of needs;”.

4 **Subtitle C—National Activities To**
 5 **Improve the Education of Chil-**
 6 **dren With Disabilities**

7 **SEC. 321. PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT TO IMPROVE SERV-**
 8 **ICES AND RESULTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DIS-**
 9 **ABILITIES; ENSURING SUFFICIENT TEACH-**
 10 **ERS OF THE DEAF-BLIND AND EARLY INTER-**
 11 **VENTION SPECIALISTS.**

12 Section 662(c)(2) (20 U.S.C. 1462(c)(2)) is amend-
 13 ed—

14 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (G) and
 15 (H) as subparagraphs (I) and (J), respectively; and
 16 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the fol-
 17 lowing:

18 “(G) Preparing personnel to be qualified
 19 teachers of the deaf-blind and early intervention
 20 specialists, to assist children with deaf-blindness
 21 in schools and school related activities, as well
 22 as toddlers and preschool children with deaf-
 23 blindness in early intervention and preschool
 24 programs, to develop communication and lit-
 25 eracy skills, access, organize and utilize infor-

1 mation about the environment and acquire con-
2 cepts essential for learning.

3 “(H) Preparing personnel to be qualified
4 interveners as individualized supports to assist
5 children with deaf-blindness in school and
6 school related activities, and infants and tod-
7 dlers and preschool children with deaf-blindness
8 in early intervention and preschool programs.”.

○