

## WE NEED YOUR HELP PASSING S905 AND A1281!

PLEASE write a short statement to the Senate with your support for S905 that urges a favorable vote. A sample email to the Senate is provided below.

PLEASE also write to the Assembly to urge them to put the companion bill A1281 on the board for a vote and urge support for the bill. A sample email to the Assembly also is provided below.

THANK YOU!!

### For the NJ Senate:

Please send Senate emails to:

1) Senate President Nicholas Scutari: [senscutari@njleg.org](mailto:senscutari@njleg.org)

PLEASE COPY THE BILL'S SPONSORS AND CO-SPONSORS ON YOUR EMAIL, including Senators Teresa Ruiz, Vin Gopal, Shirley Turner and Jean Stanfield: [senruiz@njleg.org](mailto:senruiz@njleg.org), [sengopal@njleg.org](mailto:sengopal@njleg.org), [senturner@njleg.org](mailto:senturner@njleg.org), [senstanfield@njleg.org](mailto:senstanfield@njleg.org)

2) Senate Majority Office Executive Director Kevin Drennan: [kdrennan@njleg.org](mailto:kdrennan@njleg.org)

PLEASE COPY THE BILL'S SPONSORS AND CO-SPONSORS ON YOUR EMAIL including Senators Teresa Ruiz, Vin Gopal, Shirley Turner and Jean Stanfield: [senruiz@njleg.org](mailto:senruiz@njleg.org), [sengopal@njleg.org](mailto:sengopal@njleg.org), [senturner@njleg.org](mailto:senturner@njleg.org), [senstanfield@njleg.org](mailto:senstanfield@njleg.org)

3) Senators for your District (you can find their names here: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us//legislative-roster>). Email addresses for senators start with "sen" followed by the last name @njleg.org (e.g. [senscutari@njleg.org](mailto:senscutari@njleg.org))

### Sample Senate Email:

Dear Senate President Scutari,

I write to you in my capacity as... to urge you to vote in favor of S905--a bill to extend the statute of limitations for COVID-19-related compensatory education claims for students with disabilities--when it comes before the full Senate for a vote on February 14, 2022.

I strongly support this bill because it will protect the rights of as many as 230,000 NJ students with disabilities (with IEPs), who did not receive essential special education and related services during the first approximately 1.5 years of the pandemic, by expanding the statute of limitations for the filing of compensatory education claims. Many school districts have yet to hold IEP meetings with families to discuss students' compensatory education needs and develop plans for the delivery of compensatory services. If the State does not permit more time for school districts and families to hold these meetings and resolve compensatory education issues in an amicable fashion, countless parents will be forced to file for due process by March 2022 to preserve their

claims, opening the floodgates of special education litigation. Extending the statute of limitations is in the best interest of children with disabilities because it will provide them with the opportunity to receive missed services to promote their overall growth, development and education, and will benefit school districts and families by providing the time needed to resolve claims without resort to expensive and lengthy litigation.

S905 passed unanimously out of the Senate Education Committee. The same bill (formerly S4245) received a unanimous favorable vote (with one abstention) by the full Senate in lame duck. The bill must be enacted as soon as possible and before March 18, 2022 in order to have the intended benefit. The bill is supported by many statewide organizations and individuals engaged in advocacy on behalf of students with disabilities. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

**For the NJ Assembly:**

Please send Assembly emails to:

- 1) Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin: [asmcoughlin@njleg.org](mailto:asmcoughlin@njleg.org)
- 2) Assembly Majority Office Executive Director Seth Hahn: [shahn@njleg.org](mailto:shahn@njleg.org)
- 3) Assembly Majority Office Deputy Executive Director Daniel Harris: [dharris@njleg.org](mailto:dharris@njleg.org)
- 4) Sponsors and co-sponsors of the bill, including Sterling Stanley, Linda Carter, Raj Mukherji, Mila Jasey and Joe Danielsen: [asmstanley@njleg.org](mailto:asmstanley@njleg.org), [aswcarter@njleg.org](mailto:aswcarter@njleg.org), [asmukherji@njleg.org](mailto:asmukherji@njleg.org), [aswjasey@njleg.org](mailto:aswjasey@njleg.org), [asmdanielsen@njleg.org](mailto:asmdanielsen@njleg.org)
- 5) Your representatives in the Assembly. You can find information about your representatives here: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp> Email addresses for Assembly persons start with "asm" (assemblyman) or "asw" (assemblywoman) followed by the last name @njleg.org (e.g. [asmcoughlin@njleg.org](mailto:asmcoughlin@njleg.org))

Sample Assembly Email:

Dear Speaker Coughlin,

I write to you in my capacity as... to urge you to put A1281--a bill to extend the statute of limitations for COVID-19-related compensatory education claims for students with disabilities--on the Board for a vote when the full Assembly meets on February 14 or February 28, 2022, and to urge you to vote in favor of the bill.

I strongly support this bill because it will protect the rights of as many as 230,000 NJ students with disabilities (with IEPs) who did not receive essential special education and related services during the first approximately 1.5 years of the pandemic, by expanding

the statute of limitations for the filing of compensatory education claims. Many school districts have yet to hold IEP meetings with families to discuss students' compensatory education needs and develop plans for the delivery of compensatory services. If the State does not permit more time for school districts and families to hold these meetings and resolve compensatory education issues in an amicable fashion, countless parents will be forced to file for due process by March 2022 to preserve their claims, opening the floodgates of special education litigation. Extending the statute of limitations is in the best interest of children with disabilities because it will provide them with the opportunity to receive missed services to promote their overall growth, development and education, and will benefit school districts and families by providing the time needed to resolve claims without resort to expensive and lengthy litigation.

A1281 passed unanimously out of the Assembly Education Committee and must be enacted as soon as possible and before March 18, 2022 in order to have the intended benefit. The bill is supported by many statewide organizations and individuals engaged in advocacy on behalf of students with disabilities. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,