



**Protect IDEA!  
Protect Our Kids!**

## **National Call Your Senators Day Wednesday, March 24, 2004**

For names and contact information go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

Or call the Senate switchboard at (202) 224-3121

In November, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP) “reported out” a bill to amend Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (I.D.E.A.) and reauthorize Parts C and D. This bill, S. 1248, contains many harmful provisions which, if allowed to become law, will hurt children and youth with disabilities and erect more barriers for families trying to work with school districts to plan effective education programs for their sons and daughters. Even worse, the HELP Committee has agreed to allow several equally harmful amendments to be introduced when S. 1248 moves to the full Senate for a vote sometime this spring. We can’t just sit and wait for this to happen. We cannot allow S.1248 to move forward unless critical civil rights for

students with disabilities are protected, sound research-based educational practices are restored, and the responsibilities that should be shared by school districts are addressed and made clear in I.D.E.A.

Parents and advocates must make sure that every Senator understands that the current bill is not acceptable to the parents and children they represent. That no bill containing provisions which damage children and youth should go forward in Congress this year, or ever!

What can you do? Call your senator and say “**JUST VOTE NO!**” to S 1248.

**If Not Now, When? If Not Us, Who?**

The National Call in Day is part of the March 24 –March 25 **Washington Event** conceived in the hearts of parents and advocates across the nation, with the support of TASH, [www.ourchildrenleftbehind.com](http://www.ourchildrenleftbehind.com), the [League of Special Education Voters](http://www.leagueofspecialeducationvoters.org), the Association for People in Supported Employment and NconSD.