



Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
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Empowered Families: Educated, Engaged, Effective!

SPAN & Family Voices NJ comments to the Department of Education on the proposed
Evaluation of Existing Regulations

September 20, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed US Department of Education Evaluation of Existing Regulations. We are writing on behalf of the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), NJ's federally-designated Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) and Family-to-Family Health Information Center, and Family Voices of NJ, the National Family Voices State Affiliate Organization for our state. As the Family Voices state affiliate, we support families of children with special healthcare needs and disabilities on health, access to community supports, and education, particularly around access to inclusive education opportunities. We also serve on the State Special Education Advisory Council, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) restraints committee, as well as the Part B Stakeholders.

We support the comments from the National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE) in the areas of family engagement, accountability, and non-discrimination, as well as their comments and the comments of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities regarding the inappropriateness of the process itself.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Evaluation of Existing Regulations.

Sincerely,

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Our Mission: To empower families and inform and involve professionals interested in the healthy development and education of children, to enable all children to become fully participating and contributing members of our communities and society.