

CASE and CEC 2017 Legislative Education Summit

Our very own Rosalind Hall, Past President attended the CASE and CEC 2017 Legislative Education Summit this year. The following is a recount of the summit this year from Rosalind.



“Storming the Hill for Special Education!” This was National CASE 14th Annual Legislative Education Summit and the 2nd year that we have collaborated with National CEC to sponsor an informative and productive Summit! There were 43 states represented with over 275 educational professionals from Public Schools to Colleges and Universities. We had a very diverse group of colleagues all speaking the same language in support of Special and Gifted Education.

Members of Florida CASE, Judith Everett and myself along with Florida CEC members, Gayle Zavala, our CEC Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) Representative and Team Leader, Dr. Raul Escarpio, Dr. Jennifer Lesh, Jane Boritz, Jillian Schreffer, Rebecca Hopkins, Matt Taylor, Samantha Mrstik and Hannah Ehrli traveled to Washington, DC to attend the 2017 CASE and CEC Legislative Education Summit July 9-12. This summit provided strategies that are designed to assist the attendees in preparation for their visits with their respective Senators and U.S. congressmen. In addition, we had many presenters that provided in-depth information and a wealth of knowledge on the various topics of concerns. Both Myrna Mandlawitz, CASE Consultant, Governmental Relations and Deb Ziegler, CEC Policy and Advocacy

stressed the importance of our voices being heard and our stories being shared with our policy makers in ensuring positive educational outcomes for our students.

While on Capitol Hill we met with Senators Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio Legislative Education Assistants and our respective congressmen across our beautiful state to convey our top priorities. They were as follows:

*Education Appropriations- We urges Congress to increase funding to IDEA Part B, Part C, Part D and the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act in the FY 2018 appropriations bills.

*Keep Public Funds in Public Education- We urges Congress to support efforts that maintain and enhance the use of public funds for public education and services offered through public school districts

*Medicaid in Schools- We urges Congress to oppose any bill that reduces Medicaid coverage for children's health services, especially those for children with disabilities and children in poverty and oppose any bill that establishes block grants and per capita caps or reduces federal Medicaid funding, that would result in shifting costs to states (please find attached a Medicaid Facts document).

In addition to our strategically planned visits "On the Hill" which we felt were quite powerful, the highlight of the Summit was the Keynote Speaker, Kimberly Richey, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) on our first day of meetings and our last visit with Ruth Ryder, Office of Special Education (OSEP) Acting Director! Both of these ladies truly have our students with disabilities best interest at heart. They listened to our concerns and took copious notes with the desire to maintain communication.

It is critical that we continue to let our "Voices be Heard" not only in Washington, DC but equally important in Tallahassee. We must work collectively with knowledge to advocate effectively as we shape policies and practices which impacts the quality of education for our children with disabilities.

A special thank you to our Florida team; your presence made a difference!

Best regards,

Dr. Rosalind Hall, Past President, Florida CASE



CASE and CEC 2017 Legislative Education Summit Group picture.



CASE and CEC 2017 Legislative Education Summit Group picture with Ruth Ryder, OSEP Acting Director.