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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Aim Higher Act Hits the Mark for Students with Disabilities**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – In support of key provisions included in the *Aim Higher Act of 2018* introduced by Ranking Member Scott (D-VA), Denise Marshall, executive director for the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA) made the following statement:

“COPAA believes the Aim Higher Act hits the mark for students with disabilities. With just 11 percent of students with disabilities matriculating to college,<sup>1</sup> it is critical that more students have the timely access to instructional materials, technologies, accommodations and support services they need to complete their degree. The Aim Higher Act acknowledges this and updates the law in important ways. Among its many good provisions the bill would: ensure teacher preparation programs build a competent workforce of teachers prepared to instruct diverse learners; require colleges to accept a student’s formal documentation of disability from high school when seeking accommodations so students are not required to undergo new costly evaluation to re-prove existence of a disability; and improve data collection so that students and their families will know the types of support services offered when selecting a school. The Aim Higher Act demonstrates that federal law can be written with the intent to foster success from the moment students step onto a college campus through successful graduation.”

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The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc. (COPAA) is an independent, nonprofit, national organization that protects the legal and civil rights of students with disabilities and their families. COPAA is premised on the belief that every child has the right to a meaningful education and an equal opportunity to achieve his or her full academic potential. States, school districts and schools have an obligation under federal and state law to ensure that each eligible student receives an individualized education that prepares them for work, college, and participation in his or her chosen community.

**To learn more about COPAA visit [www.copaa.org](http://www.copaa.org)**

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<sup>1</sup> National Center for Education Statistics, (2011), U.S. Department of Education