



The Alice Cogswell and Anne Macy Sullivan Act, H.R.1120

THE SITUATION:

Just under 10,000 children ages birth-21 are deafblind in the U.S. (see back).

- "Deafblind" refers to combined hearing and vision loss, and these two senses can be reduced, distorted, or missing entirely.
- Deafblindness is a disability of access to the visual and auditory information about people and things in the environment necessary for learning, communication, and development.
- Children who are deafblind can learn and interact if given access to specialized educational programming and appropriate supports.
- There is a critical shortage of early intervention and educational personnel with the knowledge and skills required to meet the unique, specialized needs of this population of children.
- An estimated 80% of students with deafblindness are unemployed after graduation from high school. If education is our society's ticket to employment and independence, then our current system has failed this group of students.



THE SOLUTION:

The Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act (H.R.1120) would strengthen the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and improve results for children and youth with deafblindness by ensuring that:

- Teachers and other educators are available who have the specialized knowledge and skills needed.
- Intervener services for students who are deaf-blind will be listed as a related service.
- States will engage in strategic planning to be sure that they can in fact meet each child's specialized needs.
- Every child who is deafblind, regardless of whether they have additional disabilities, will be properly counted, evaluated, and served.



*Contact the National Coalition on Deafblindness
for more information:*

www.thedbcoalition.org

National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary

December 1, 2015

(Ages birth through 21*)

	AGE OF CHILD (Respective Count Year)							Total
	0 thru 2	3 thru 5	6 thru 11	12 thru 17	18 thru 21	Over 21	Unknown/ Missing	
Alabama	10	13	54	57	33	5	2	174
Alaska	1	0	11	5	1	0	1	19
Arizona	12	20	90	64	35	1	0	222
Arkansas	3	14	58	63	7	0	0	145
California	32	96	361	329	182	3	5	1008
Colorado	19	18	44	38	14	0	0	133
Connecticut	1	6	17	16	15	0	0	55
Delaware	5	11	23	26	12	0	0	77
District of Columbia	2	2	9	2	1	0	0	16
Florida	18	56	176	179	105	0	0	534
Georgia	21	38	106	84	24	0	0	273
Hawaii	2	12	19	17	13	0	2	65
Idaho	1	11	23	15	11	0	0	61
Illinois	17	36	114	114	80	4	0	365
Indiana	3	18	58	78	36	0	0	193
Iowa	5	8	31	26	8	0	0	78
Kansas	4	19	51	33	11	2	0	120
Kentucky	2	11	38	57	11	0	0	119
Louisiana	3	0	22	31	30	0	6	92
Maine	2	8	12	14	5	0	0	41
Maryland	15	24	61	67	20	0	0	187
Massachusetts	11	31	93	78	47	0	0	260
Michigan	12	26	92	104	51	47	0	332
Minnesota	19	53	120	136	57	0	0	385
Mississippi	5	6	17	13	6	0	0	47
Missouri	19	38	51	68	25	0	0	201
Montana	5	5	22	14	5	0	0	51
Nebraska	0	8	33	34	24	1	0	100
Nevada	20	19	41	20	10	0	0	110
New Hampshire	3	12	25	17	12	0	0	69
New Jersey	11	31	52	48	42	0	0	184
New Mexico	18	27	35	26	14	0	0	120
New York	6	31	103	113	94	0	0	347
North Carolina	15	35	98	73	48	0	0	269
North Dakota	5	4	11	10	1	0	0	31
Ohio	6	31	118	144	48	0	0	347
Oklahoma	9	17	47	50	27	0	0	150
Oregon	8	13	18	31	12	0	0	82
Pacific Basin	2	3	19	17	6	1	6	54
Pennsylvania	56	90	123	94	38	0	1	402
Puerto Rico	0	1	8	29	7	0	0	45
Rhode Island	0	0	16	12	8	0	0	36
South Carolina	13	19	35	47	10	0	0	124
South Dakota	2	4	7	12	4	0	0	29
Tennessee	47	35	74	74	25	0	0	255
Texas	39	84	257	224	85	1	0	690
Utah	17	23	31	34	23	2	0	130
Vermont	3	4	8	8	4	0	0	27
Virgin Islands	0	0	4	7	7	0	0	18
Virginia	5	15	59	60	28	0	0	167
Washington	21	29	72	88	29	0	0	239
West Virginia	6	15	35	37	9	0	0	102
Wisconsin	9	22	47	63	12	0	0	153
Wyoming	1	8	17	11	4	0	0	41
Total	571	1160	3166	3111	1476	67	23	9574

*Some states continue to provide services through the end of the school year in which the individual turns 22 years old