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September 13, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The Arc of Northern Virginia supports the proposed AUTISM Educators Act of 2012, sponsored by the Honorable Congressman James Moran. This bill acknowledges the rapidly growing need for well trained teachers and other educational professionals who are able to effectively educate the large number of students with autism spectrum disorders in our schools.

The AUTISM Educators Act will provide valuable training, communication methodologies, and teaching strategies to education professionals so that they can assist students with autism in thriving in an academic environment. The bill's grant programs to ensure the retention of teachers skilled in working with students on the spectrum is of vital importance as students on the spectrum need continuity *and* well-trained teachers. Involving parents in a child's education is one of the greatest ways to ensure a child's success and we are pleased to see this is a focus of the AUTISM Educators Act.

The Arc of Northern Virginia supports inclusion in the classroom and feels that this will be most successful when all teachers are well versed in including and supporting students with autism. The AUTISM Educators Act would be an important step forward in achieving full inclusion.

Sincerely,

The Arc of Northern Virginia