

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1604

In 1975 Congress passed legislation that would guarantee free and appropriate education to all individuals with disabilities. At that time, a commitment was made to assist states by eventually funding special education at 40%. Since that time there have been numerous reauthorizations of what is now the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), with the latest occurring in 2004.

It is time for the federal government to better assist states in meeting the obligation of free and appropriate education. It's disappointing that President Biden chose not to do so with his various pieces of massive legislation last Congress that increased spending and debt without addressing real needs of Americans.

As a country, we must address Washington's insatiable desire to spend taxpayers' money, which has caused our national debt to grow to more than \$31,000,000,000,000. While current tax revenue is more than \$4 trillion, spending is more than \$6 trillion, leaving America with a \$2 trillion deficit.

The liability for Washington's out-of-control spending is somewhere above \$500,000 per citizen when Congress' unfunded liabilities are included—a staggering number. If we do not fix this massive problem, the debt payments alone will swallow the Federal budget; interest payments on the debt now sit around \$431 billion. It's clear that reckless and unrestrained spending in Washington has jeopardized future critical programs and left America weak.

Instead of allocating proper funding for essential programs, including Social Security and Medicare, President Biden and the previous Democrat majority in Congress chose to spend billions of dollars on highly dubious Green New Deal policies and other far-left policy experiments. As a result, Kansans are having a hard time paying for everyday necessities like gas and groceries as their wallets continue to shrink and critical programs remain underfunded.

Last Congress alone President Biden signed into law more than \$3 trillion, including:

- H.R. 1319: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, estimated to cost \$1.7 trillion
- H.R. 3684: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, estimated to cost \$764.88 billion
- H.R. 5376: Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, estimated to cost \$50.58 billion

I believe that meeting the obligation first set in 1975 will begin with reviewing and potentially rescinding money yet to be spent from many of the obviously wasteful programs that were tossed into legislation from the last Congress. I look forward to working with my colleagues across the aisle to combat waste, fraud and abuse that has occurred over the past two years – including the reported \$282 billion in mistaken and

improper payments which should be directed instead towards shoring up essential programs and living up to promises made by Congress to the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Estes". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent initial "R".

Congressman Ron Estes