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**Easter Seals**

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February 10, 2009

The Honorable George Miller  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy  
Committee on Education and Labor  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Miller and McCarthy:

Thank you for sponsoring the Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2009. Easter Seals is proud to support this legislation that will go a long way strengthen protections to our nation's teens. Easter Seals urges the House of Representatives to work swiftly to adopt this important legislation.

No parent decides to send their son or daughter to a residential program without a great deal of thought and with the hope that the non-home setting will help their child gain the skills he or she needs to be successful in life. Tragically, thousands of children are victims of abuse and neglect, sometimes leading to death, at the hands of individuals who work at residential programs. Once enacted, your bill will ensure that the number of children who are harmed by care provided outside their homes drops dramatically.

Easter Seals looks forward to working with you on passage of the Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2009. Thank you for your leadership on behalf of all vulnerable people, including those with disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katy Beh Neas".

Katy Beh Neas  
Vice President, Government Relations