

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

November 12, 2007

United States Distance Learning Association
8 Winter Street, Suite 508
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all you have done to support and promote the needs of the distance learning community. It is important that people have a greater awareness and appreciation for distance learning and I strongly support your move to create a National Distance Learning Week so that the leaders and best practices in the field of distance learning can be given the recognition they deserve.

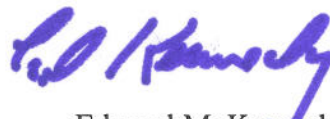
I understand the value of a sound, well-rounded education to the future of both our children and our community. I remain committed to the idea that this country needs to invest more in its education system to make sure that students get the skills and knowledge they need to be successful and help the nation prosper. We need to maintain the federal, state, and local investment in education to ensure that all students receive a quality education and achieve high academic standards. This should include a strong commitment to programs that allow students of all ages to pursue their education with online curriculum.

Online learning programs are invaluable because they provide a segment of our population with critical literacy and job-related skills as well as the means necessary to take their education to the next level. As President Kennedy once said: "Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation." For millions of students worldwide, these dreams are being realized through the use of distance learning technologies, allowing them to fulfill their own personal and educational ambitions.

As Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, I recognize that education must be our highest priority. I look forward to seeing all that can be accomplished during National Distance Learning Week.

With best wishes and warmest regards,

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy

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