



Youth for Neurodiversity Inc.

October 31, 2025

The Honorable First Lady Melania Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Youth Need Direct Communication & Partnership with the Administration

Dear First Lady Trump,

On behalf of Youth for Neurodiversity Inc., a youth-led nonprofit dedicated to empowering neurodivergent youth through advocacy and policy, I request your urgent intervention in establishing a direct government communication channel for young voices like ours, especially given the recent layoffs, ongoing government shutdown since October 1, 2025, and highly polarized media communications.

You have been a champion of youth empowerment through initiatives such as Be Best, Fostering the Future, the AI Challenge, the Take It Down Act, and the reunification of Ukrainian and Russian children with their families. As someone who knows about "challenging convention" and celebrating everyone "who dares to think differently," your leadership can amplify our ask for a dedicated forum between teens, young adults, and policymakers so we feel heard and can shape policies that affect us.¹

Nearly 7.5 million students with learning differences of autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, Tourette's syndrome, and others rely on oversight from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the Rehabilitative Services Administration (RSA) for critical services at schools and providers. These include individualized education programs (IEPs), 504 plans for accommodations, speech therapy, occupational therapy, behavioral supports, vocational training for transition from school to employment, job coaching, assistive technology, and more. Recent layoffs at OSEP and RSA, leaving a handful of staffers, the government shutdown logjam, now going beyond 40 days, and the timeliness of care for our neurodivergent peers are of grave concern.

Although the administration affirms that education and healthcare for neurodivergent children remain a priority, we, the youth, are consuming information second-hand through the media. We appreciate White House communications, but they are wide-ranging, and we young people do not have a direct forum to easily ask questions or represent our concerns. Some nonprofits or lobbying organizations hold Capitol Hill Day events with youth, but these are infrequent and selective. Our organization is comprised of youth from not only public and private schools but also homeschools. Many homeschoolers do not have the same institutional resources available as others, yet their voices are equally important.

We want to propose a few ideas for the administration: a monthly youth forum (with questions provided by youth organizations or individuals in advance if needed), a newsletter that youth like us can partner with the administration on about issues we care about, a moderated community server for youth leaders interested in policy advocacy so we can plan events to engage broader youth community.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to children. Your bipartisan leadership could ensure neurodivergent youth are not just protected but celebrated and empowered to shape their world. We welcome the opportunity to engage and can be contacted at info@youthfornd.org. We envision a future where every young voice feels heard, understood, and thrives.

Sincerely,

Aashna Parsa

Aashna Parsa
Founder and President

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/11/first-lady-melania-trump-named-patriot-of-the-year/>