

MEDIA ADVISORY:
April 3, 2007

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**KENNEDY TO HONOR CHILDREN AND DISCUSS VITAL IMPORTANCE OF
EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

***KENNEDY TO BE NAMED 2008 OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD
WINNER BY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN***

BOSTON, MA- On Friday, April 4th at 6:00 PM, Senator Edward M. Kennedy will discuss the importance of federal investment in education for students, parents and advocates at the annual Council for Exceptional Children's Yes I Can! Awards at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. Kennedy will receive the Outstanding Public Service Award for his longstanding dedication to improving educational opportunities and outcomes for exceptional children.

The Council for Exceptional Children will also honor student award winners for the 2008 Yes I Can! Award, which recognizes children with disabilities who excel. Their accomplishments are in academics, arts, athletics, community service, employment, extracurricular activities, independent living skills, self advocacy and technology.

Kennedy is a longtime leader in the effort to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to an educational program that is academically challenging and appropriate for their unique educational and developmental needs. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) enacted in 1975, has enabled millions of children with disabilities to receive a public education. Kennedy has also played a central role in subsequent reauthorizations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, working to ensure that children with disabilities receive the full benefits of standards-based reform in K-12 education.

Kennedy recognizes the important role of parents, teachers, special educators, administrators and leaders in higher education, and continues to push for improving and strengthening educational services for exceptional children.

WHO: Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Susan Fowler, CEC President
MaryAnn Byrnes, Massachusetts CEC President
Deborah Ziegler, CEC Associate Executive

Director

WHAT: The 2008 Council for Exceptional Children Outstanding Public Service Award Ceremony.

WHEN: Friday, April 4, 2008
5:00-6:30 PM

WHERE: Sheraton Boston Hotel
Prudential Center
39 Dalton Street
Boston, MA

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