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## **Press Release**

For Immediate Release

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### **Senator Grassley Recognized for Leadership in Gifted Education by Council for Exceptional Children**

**ARLINGTON, VA, JUNE 8, 2007** - On June 11, the Council for Exceptional Children will officially recognize Senator Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) as the 2007 recipient of the *CEC Outstanding Public Service Award* for his leadership and commitment to advancing legislation that benefits America's three million students with gifts and talents.

"CEC is grateful to have Senator Grassley as a longtime supporter of gifted education. He recognizes the importance of investing in our nation's most advanced learners, not only to benefit our ability to compete globally, but more importantly to ensure that all children have access to an education that fosters growth and stimulates the mind as well," stated CEC President Mary Ruth Coleman.

As the senior senator from Iowa, Grassley has been a tireless advocate for gifted education over the years. Most recently, Grassley negotiated language in immigration legislation that would direct a portion of the H-1B visa fees that businesses pay for international talent and direct it to the only federal program that supports gifted

education, the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act. This action, pending consideration of the immigration legislation, would provide the Javits Act with a dedicated funding stream, enabling the Act to better meet its goal of building the capacity of states to provide gifted education.

Only 28 states have a mandate to provide services for students with gifts and talents. As a result, the educational needs of many of the nation's approximately three million students with gifts and talents go unmet.

“Senator Grassley’s recent effort on behalf of the Javits program is worthy in-and-of-itself of an award; however, CEC is commending the Senator for years of dedication, persistence and leadership for gifted education. His initiatives for gifted education touch the lives of many children, families and professionals,” stated CEC Iowa member and CEC Past-President, Suana Wessendorf.

CEC will honor Senator Grassley on Monday, June 11 at 4pm in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate office building.

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*The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities, students with disabilities, and/or the gifted.*