



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

January 9, 2017

Dear Senator:

We, the undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), are aware that the 115th Congress is already hard at work on an aggressive calendar for action starting with the Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution released by Senate Budget Committee Chairman Michael Enzi on January 3, 2017. The members of CCD are highly concerned about, and urge your opposition of, this budget resolution because it seeks to eliminate access to affordable, accessible and comprehensive health care services in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). Health care is essential for all people, including those with disabilities of all ages, in order to live independently in their communities.

The ACA made major improvements in how we provide and pay for health care. While the system isn't perfect, it does include several key provisions that have truly made a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. The nondiscrimination provisions and health insurance reforms, the expanded access to long term supports and services, and the expanded availability of comprehensive and affordable health care have helped many more individuals with disabilities live in the community and be successful in school and the work place. These improvements include: the end of discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions, the end of annual and lifetime limits on insurance coverage, the ability for young adults to stay on their parents' policies until age 26, the addition of coverage for rehabilitation and habilitation services and devices, and more. These provisions have ensured that people with all kinds of disabilities receive equal access to much needed health care including examinations, therapies to regain abilities after an illness or injury, and affordable medications. No longer do individuals with disabilities and their families have to make very difficult choices about whether to pay their mortgage, declare bankruptcy, or choose between buying groceries and paying for needed medications.

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

Again, we strongly urge you to please vote NO on the 2017 Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution.

Repealing the ACA without an adequate replacement in the same vehicle endangers millions of citizens with disabilities who have gained coverage and dismantles critical consumer protections established under the ACA.

Thank you for your consideration.

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
Advance CLASS
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Association on Health and Disability
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
American Dance Therapy Association
American Foundation for the Blind
American Music Therapy Association
American Network of Community Options and Resources
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
Association of People Supporting Employment First
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Brain Injury Association of America
Center for Public Representation
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
Council for Exceptional Children
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children
Easterseals
Family Voices
Justice in Aging
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Lupus Foundation of America
Lutheran Services in America Disability Network
Madison House Autism Foundation
Mental Health America
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools
National Council on Independent living
National Disability Institute
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Health Law Program
National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives
National Respite Coalition
National Association of School Psychologists
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Parent to Parent USA
School Social Work Association of America
SourceAmerica

The Advocacy Institute
The Arc of the United States
United Cerebral Palsy
United Spinal Association