

The Disability and Aging Collaborative

March 23, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell and Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

The undersigned members of the Disability and Aging Collaborative are writing to ask Congress to fully fund the White House's request for supplemental appropriations to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Disability and Aging Collaborative (DAC) is a coalition of approximately 40 national organizations that work together to advance long-term services and supports policy at the federal level. Formed in 2009, the DAC was one of the first coordinated efforts to bring together disability and aging organizations.

As you know, older adults and people with disabilities have been and continue to be at increased risk from COVID-19. [Almost 1 million people have died](#)—the vast majority are older adults and people with disabilities and nearly a quarter are residents and staff of long-term care facilities. Millions more have been infected and, as of the end of 2021, [1.2 million more adults in America have become disabled](#) due to COVID-19. Underlying systemic racism, ableism, and ageism have burdened older adults, people with disabilities, direct care workers, family caregivers, low-income households, and people of color with the greatest harms of this pandemic, including severe illness and death.

Experts are [predicting](#) cases will rise in the U.S. in the coming weeks following increases in other countries. Congress and the Administration must take action now to ensure we have measures in place to prevent as many illnesses as possible and save lives. As the Biden Administration [has warned](#), “failure to fund these efforts now will have severe consequences as we will not be equipped to deal with a future surge. Waiting to provide funding once we're in a surge will be too late.”

We are calling on Congress to fully fund the [White House's request for emergency COVID response funding](#) without delay. This funding is absolutely necessary to maintain access to vaccines, treatment, testing, and other basic measures to protect the health and lives of people with disabilities and older adults and our communities.

Sincerely,
American Association on Health and Disability
The Arc of the United States
Association for University Centers on Disabilities

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Autism Society of America
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Caring Across Generations
Easterseals
Epilepsy Foundation
The Jewish Federations of North America
Justice in Aging
Lakeshore Foundation
LeadingAge
Medicare Rights Center
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
National Council on Aging
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National PACE Association
USAging
Well Spouse Association