

Joint Statement from the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) and the Disability and Aging Collaborative (DAC) on the Passage of the Budget Reconciliation Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. – July 18, 2025 – The Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) Health and Long Term Services Task Forces and the Disability and Aging Collaborative (DAC) express profound disappointment in the final passage of HR 1, the budget reconciliation bill, signed into law on July 4. This legislation represents an unprecedented and devastating attack on the healthcare and long-term services and supports that people across America, including millions of people with disabilities and older adults, rely upon.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that HR 1 will cut federal spending on Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act by well over \$1 trillion. This includes the elimination of healthcare coverage for at least 11.8 million people by 2034. Furthermore, with the expiration of premium tax credits for marketplace coverage, this bill could lead to a staggering 17 million individuals losing their health coverage.

The harmful provisions embedded in the new law include:

- **Punitive work requirements:** Designed to push individuals off Medicaid, these requirements ignore the realities faced by many people with disabilities and chronic conditions, who are covered by Medicaid expansion, and for whom steady employment may not be feasible.
- **More frequent and burdensome eligibility checks:** These create unnecessary hurdles, making it exceedingly difficult for eligible individuals in the expansion population to enroll in and retain their much-needed coverage.
- **Severe reductions in state financing flexibility:** By freezing and lowering limits on provider taxes and state-directed payments, the bill significantly reduces states' ability to raise the necessary funds to pay their share of Medicaid costs and receive federal match, putting home- and community-based services (HCBS) and other critical services on the chopping block.
- **Disincentives for Medicaid expansion states:** The bill penalizes states that have chosen to expand Medicaid, directly undermining efforts to provide essential healthcare to low-income individuals, including those with disabilities, older adults not eligible for Medicare, family caregivers, and direct care workers.
- **Taking health care away from lawfully present immigrants:** The bill further restricts eligibility for Medicaid, Medicare, and Marketplace tax credits, denying coverage to refugees and most other lawfully present humanitarian immigrants and demonstrating a callous disregard for human well-being.

This bill represents a massive and irresponsible cost-shift to states. Research demonstrates that when federal Medicaid funding is reduced, states are forced to cut "optional" benefits, with home- and community-based services (HCBS) often being the first to be cut, directly leaving

people with disabilities and older adults without critical care. These cuts will have far-reaching consequences, leading to hospital and nursing facility closures, healthcare workforce layoffs, and a diminished healthcare infrastructure that will impact everyone, making it impossible to "carve out" specific populations like people with disabilities or older adults from the devastating effects.

These Medicaid restrictions and administrative hurdles will hurt the already underpaid direct care workforce, who support individuals' long-term care needs and often rely on Medicaid for their own health coverage.

These profound cuts to healthcare and long-term services and supports are compounded by recent massive reductions to multiple federal agencies that support people with disabilities, as well as ongoing proposals to cut vital support programs in annual appropriations bills. This cumulative assault on essential services threatens to reverse decades of progress toward independent living and community integration.

As the largest coalition of national organizations working together on behalf of our nation's individuals with disabilities and aging and their families, CCD, alongside DAC, our commitment remains unbowed. As our community celebrates the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the 60th anniversary of Medicaid and Medicare, we rededicate ourselves to fighting tirelessly for the rights, services, and supports that allow all individuals to live and thrive with dignity and independence in their communities. We urge policymakers to work with stakeholders to mitigate and reverse the devastating impact of HR 1 and to invest in the health and well-being of everyone.

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