



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Fiscal Policy

2017 ACTIVITIES

The Fiscal Policy Task Force continued work this year advocating to protect funding for programs that serve people with disabilities. Our work this year focused on opposing the FY 2018 President's Budget and Congressional Budget Resolutions which called for historic cuts to entitlement and non-defense discretionary programs that help make community living possible for people with disabilities. The proposed cuts included: \$610 billion from the Medicaid program beyond the over \$800 billion cut in the House-passed American Health Care Act; over \$74.2 billion cut from Social Security and Supplemental Security Income; and the elimination of funding to states for Councils on Developmental Disabilities, independent living services, and traumatic brain injury services to be replaced with a new "innovation" program with less than half of the funding for the three programs.

The Task Force also worked extensively on opposing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that repeals the individual mandate to have health coverage and adds \$1.5 trillion in deficits over the next 10 years, increasing pressure to cut critical disability programs. The Task Force led disability coalition efforts against this legislation, including:

- developing principles for tax reform
- meetings with Hill staff
- sending multiple letters and statements to the House and Senate
- issuing action alerts
- drafting fact sheets
- responding to media inquiries on the impact of the tax proposals of people with disabilities

The Task Force also continued to serve as the central source for appropriations and budget information for other task forces during the appropriations process and to be CCD's liaison to groups such as the Coalition for Health Funding and the coalition for non-defense discretionary programs (NDD United), providing input into their letters, press releases, and participating in Hill visits.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The task force will continue to address threats to funding for disability related programs and to coordinate with other task forces around fiscal policy analysis and advocacy.

CO-CHAIRS IN 2017:

Annie Acosta – The Arc

Lisa Ekman - National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives

Donna Meltzer – National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Kim Musheno – Autism Society