



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

March 20, 2015

Dear Senator/Representative

The undersigned organizations are writing as members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities to express our strong support for maintaining the affordable access to comprehensive health insurance coverage created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for people with disabilities and chronic conditions. CCD is a coalition of national consumer, service provider, and professional organizations that advocates on behalf of persons with disabilities and chronic conditions and their families.

The undersigned organizations are very concerned about proposals and legislation being introduced and debated in the 114th Congress that would undermine the progress the ACA has made toward ensuring people with disabilities and chronic conditions have access to the care they need to live healthy, independent and fulfilling lives. Millions of Americans have gained access to health care coverage due to the enactment of the ACA, including many people with chronic conditions and disabilities. We urge the rejection of any proposal that would reverse these gains.

In particular, it is vital that the private sector reforms included in the ACA that have allowed people with disabilities and chronic conditions to obtain affordable access to private health insurance for the first time be maintained including, but not limited to:

- the ban on excluding people based on pre-existing conditions,
- modified community rating,
- elimination of annual and lifetime caps,
- limits on out of pocket expenses,
- financial assistance for low and moderate income individuals,
- requirements for comprehensive benefit packages, including rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices,
- mental health parity, and
- robust prescription drug coverage.

The undersigned groups support efforts to improve the ACA in ways that protects or expands access to affordable comprehensive health insurance for people with disabilities and chronic conditions. However, we oppose any changes to the ACA that would decrease participation, remove protections for consumers, restrict access to comprehensive services and benefits, or increase consumer costs and urge you to reject

any proposal that would have that effect. Thank you for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions please contact Julie Ward (ward@thearc.org).

Sincerely,

ACCSES

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

American Association on Health and Disability

American Association of People with Disabilities

American Dance Therapy Association

American Music Therapy Association

American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association

American Occupational Therapy Association

American Therapeutic Recreation Association

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Brain Injury Association of America

Center for Disability Issues & the Health Professions

Community Legal Services

Corporation for Supportive Housing

Easter Seals

Epilepsy Foundation

Family Voices

Health & Disability Advocates

IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association

Institute for Educational Leadership

Justice in Aging (formerly the National Senior Citizens Law Center)

Lupus Foundation of America

Lutheran Services in America Disability Network

National Alliance on Mental Illness

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors

National Association of State Directors of Special Education

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

National Council on Independent Living

National Disability Rights Network

National Down Syndrome Congress

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

National Respite Coalition

Paralyzed Veterans of America

School Social Work Association of America

The Advocacy Institute

The Arc of the United States

United Cerebral Palsy

United Spinal Association