



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Developmental Disabilities, Autism, & Family Support Task Force

2017 ACTIVITIES

The Task Force met semi-monthly. This year was spent working on:

- The enactment of the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act that would create a national strategy to support family caregivers.
- Protecting the State Councils on Developmental Disabilities that had been targeted for drastic funding cuts and consolidation in the President's FY 2018 Budget Request.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Task Force will:

- work to protect vital mandatory and discretionary programs that fund priority programs relevant to persons with developmental disabilities and their caregivers.
- work on the implementation of the RAISE Family Caregivers Act.
- work on the reauthorization of the Autism CARES Act of 2014.
- continue to advocate for the reauthorization of the Lifespan Respite Act and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and advocate for, requirements for certain employers to provide paid leave, and to expand eligibility for unpaid leave to siblings of persons with disabilities.
- continue to weigh in on legislation to prevent and reduce the risk and harm of wandering/elopement by persons with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities.
- continue to coordinate with and support primary prevention efforts.

CO-CHAIRS IN 2017:

Annie Acosta - The Arc

Sam Crane - Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)

Esme Grant Grewal - American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)

Jill Kagan - National Respite Coalition

Erin Prangley- National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Stuart Spielman - Autism Speaks