



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

January 31, 2021

Senator Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Representative Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Senator Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Representative Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representative
Washington D.C. 20515

Senator Patrick Leahy
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Representative Rosa DeLauro
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representative
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader McCarthy, Senator Leahy, and Representative DeLauro:

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Developmental Disabilities, Autism and Family Support Task Force and Financial Security and Poverty Task Force write to strongly urge you to ensure that adult dependents be included in economic impact payments in the next COVID-19 relief bill that passes Congress. CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

Despite [bipartisan support](#) for their inclusion, adults with disabilities and older adults claimed as dependents have not been eligible for economic impact payments in any COVID-19 relief bills to date. As the pandemic has continued and the economic crisis becomes more dire, many people with disabilities and older adults have lost usual sources of care and needed to rely on family and friends for crucial services and supports. Many others rely on family or friend caregivers because there are waiting lists for home and community-based services and do not want to risk placement in a congregate setting where 40 percent of deaths from COVID have occurred. But they and their families have been denied desperately needed financial support to help cover

the costs of the pandemic, including personal protective equipment, delivery fees, masks and protective gear, and to replace other lost family income. People with disabilities and older adults face disproportionate risk from the pandemic and adult dependents **must** be included in the next COVID-19 relief bill.

The President made clear in his [American Rescue Plan](#) that he supports expanding economic impact payment eligibility to adult dependents who have been left out of previous rounds of relief. We strongly support this provision of the President's plan and urge Congress to work with the administration to ensure that it becomes law. There is no reason that Congress cannot come to a bipartisan agreement to deliver relief to struggling families and their dependents.

Again, we urge you to ensure that adult dependents are included in economic impact payments in the next COVID-19 relief bill that passes Congress. We are ready to work with you to ensure that families receive this crucial assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact Cyrus Huncharek (cyrus.huncharek@ndrn.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

CCD Developmental Disabilities, Autism, and Family Support Taskforce Co-chairs

Samantha Crane
Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Angela Lello
Autism Speaks

Kim Musheno
Autism Society of America

Erin Prangley and Emmanuel Jenkins
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)

CCD Financial Security and Poverty Taskforce Co-chairs

Cyrus Huncharek
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

Aaron Kaufman
The Jewish Federations of North America

Bethany Lilly
The Arc of the United States

Heather Sachs
National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC)

CC: Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee