



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Financial Security and Poverty

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Financial Security and Poverty Task Force congratulates the Members of the 117th Congress on their election. We hope that the 117th Congress is a time of great progress for people with disabilities. Because of the disproportionate number of people with disabilities living in poverty, our task force advocates for public policy that impacts people living in poverty, including the disproportionate number of people of color with disabilities living in poverty, and to improve the financial status of people with disabilities.

The Task Force has many legislative priorities and we detail these below for your review. We stand ready to work with you and other interested Members of Congress on these important issues for people with disabilities living in poverty and impacting the financial security of people with disabilities.

COVID Relief:

- We strongly support additional COVID relief. In particular, adult dependents, including many people with disabilities, were left out of the first round of stimulus payments made in March 2020. We support [fixing this error](#) and ensuring that adult dependents are included in any future stimulus payments. The Senate addressed the issue of excluding certain dependents from stimulus payments through a provision included in the “American Workers, Families, and Employers Assistance Act” and we [support](#) the inclusion of this provision in additional COVID relief packages.
- We [support disregarding unemployment insurance benefits](#) from consideration for means-tested programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). We also support improving the benefits of the Earned Income Tax Credit to include more childless adults, including many people with disabilities.
- We [support boosting](#) SNAP maximum benefits by 15 percent and increasing the minimum SNAP benefit to \$30.

Tax Policy:

- We support the Achieve a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Age Adjustment Act ([H.R. 1814](#) and [S. 651](#) in the 116th Congress), which allows people whose disabilities onset after their 26th birthday to open ABLE accounts. ABLE accounts allow people with disabilities who rely on public programs like Medicaid or SSI to save additional resources for disability-related expenses in a tax-advantaged savings account without encountering the strict asset limits of these programs. Unfortunately, ABLE accounts currently are

limited to people with disabilities who onset on their 26th birthday. We support access to ABLÉ accounts for all people with disabilities.

- We also strongly support additional funding for the National Council on Disability to continue and expand their efforts to coordinate the Administration's implementation of the ABLÉ program. We believe that current efforts should be strengthened to include a comprehensive, cross-agency education and outreach campaign to increase utilization of ABLÉ accounts and an annual public report of ABLÉ program usage data to Congress for oversight purposes. We strongly support additional Congressional funding for these efforts.
- We support the improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The current EITC provides a smaller credit to the approximately 6 million low-wage childless workers, many with disabilities, and the credit phases out more quickly for childless workers. These EITC improvements would also benefit many of the low-wage direct care workers who support people with disabilities and help alleviate the chronic shortage of such workers across the country.

Agriculture Policy:

- We support the SNAP Online Purchasing Flexibility Act of 2020 ([H.R.6510](#)) which would automatically expand the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot nationwide.
- We support the Food Assistance for Kids and Families During COVID-19 Act of 2020 ([S.3563](#)) which would provide authorization and funding for grocery delivery services via SNAP.
- We support the SNAP COVID–19 Anti-Hunger Restaurant Relief for You Act of 2020 ([H.R. 6688/S. 3697](#)) which would which would automatically extend the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program across the United States for the duration of the emergency and ensure that low-income individuals who rely on SNAP can access the food that is available to them.
- We strongly support the Committee's inclusion of both bill and report language in the FY 21 Agriculture-Rural Development-FDA Funding Bill which would block the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) rule. Additionally, we also support the corresponding bill report language which encourages USDA to withdraw the Broad Based Categorical Eligibility rule (BBCE).
- We support a legislative repeal of the prohibition on using SNAP benefits to pay delivery, ordering, convenience, or other fees or charges or a proposal to expand SNAP benefits to cover these fees or charges. The widespread expansion of the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot program has shifted nutrition assistance into the modern era of online ordering which has become even more common and oftentimes a necessity given the COVID-19 pandemic. We should empower people with disabilities on SNAP to retain the agency to make their own decisions on how to spend their benefits in a way that is most appropriate for their individual circumstances.
- We support the Expanding SNAP Options Act of 2020 ([H.R. 7535/S.4202](#)) which would expand online SNAP purchasing choices by enabling additional retailers to participate in the program and would provide funding for the creation of a universal online and app-

based portal to make access to nutritious foods from the full variety of SNAP retailers possible and easy to navigate for consumers.

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