



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

February 7, 2018

Dear Senator:

The undersigned Co-Chairs of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Fiscal Policy Task Force urge you to vote against H.R. 1892, the latest continuing resolution (CR) proposed on February 5 in the House of Representatives and passed last night. The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is the nation's largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the education, self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

Spending caps. The parity principle of equal relief for defense and nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs was set forth in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and 2015. Unfortunately, the measure does not provide sequestration relief but instead provides significant increases for the Department of Defense but not to the Department of Health and Human Services that supports a range of services (such as education and employment) that make community living possible for people with disabilities. *Please do not vote for this CR unless it either includes a longer term deal on parity increases for both defense and nondefense or allows negotiators time to reach a deal that provides such parity by providing funding for both at current levels.*

Targeted Cuts. The bill targets the prevention and public health fund. While we are pleased to see that community health centers and other health programs are reauthorized in this bill, we cannot support this "zero sum game" approach to critical public health program funding. *Please do not support this CR if it includes the cut to the prevention and public health fund.*

Harmful Policy Riders. With less than a day before we face another government shutdown, the inclusion of controversial and unrelated policy riders in a funding bill is unacceptable. Any stop-gap funding measure should simply provide level funding so that programs can continue and people are not harmed while Congress resolves its differences. Unfortunately, this CR as currently written, includes authorization for social impact partnerships, also known as "social impact bonds" which divert scarce public dollars above the prevailing cost of service delivery from state and local governments into the pockets of financiers, who earn a profit. *Please do not support this CR if it includes the social impact partnerships.*

We once again urge you to vote no on the current version of H.R 1892 to and work on a fair bipartisan solution that will keep the federal government funded without harming people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Annie Acosta, The Arc

Lisa Ekman, The National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives

Donna Meltzer, The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Kim Musheno, Autism Society