



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

January 9, 2017

Dear Senator:

We, the undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), are aware that the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress is already hard at work on an aggressive calendar for action starting with the Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution released by Senate Budget Committee Chairman Michael Enzi on January 3, 2017. The members of CCD are highly concerned about, and urge your opposition of, this budget resolution because it seeks to eliminate access to affordable, accessible and comprehensive health care services in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). Health care is essential for all people, including those with disabilities of all ages, in order to live independently in their communities.

The ACA made major improvements in how we provide and pay for health care. While the system isn't perfect, it does include several key provisions that have truly made a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. The nondiscrimination provisions and health insurance reforms, the expanded access to long term supports and services, and the expanded availability of comprehensive and affordable health care have helped many more individuals with disabilities live in the community and be successful in school and the work place. These improvements include: the end of discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions, the end of annual and lifetime limits on insurance coverage, the ability for young adults to stay on their parents' policies until age 26, the addition of coverage for rehabilitation and habilitation services and devices, and more. These provisions have ensured that people with all kinds of disabilities receive equal access to much needed health care including examinations, therapies to regain abilities after an illness or injury, and affordable medications. No longer do individuals with disabilities and their families have to make very difficult choices about whether to pay their mortgage, declare bankruptcy, or choose between buying groceries and paying for needed medications.

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (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.

**Again, we strongly urge you to please vote NO on the 2017 Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution.**

Repealing the ACA without an adequate replacement in the same vehicle endangers millions of citizens with disabilities who have gained coverage and dismantles critical consumer protections established under the ACA.

Thank you for your consideration.

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine  
Advance CLASS  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
American Dance Therapy Association  
American Foundation for the Blind  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Network of Community Options and Resources  
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs  
Association of People Supporting Employment First  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Center for Public Representation  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia  
Council for Exceptional Children  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund  
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children  
Easterseals  
Family Voices  
Justice in Aging  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Lupus Foundation of America  
Lutheran Services in America Disability Network  
Madison House Autism Foundation  
Mental Health America  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services  
National Association of State Directors of Special Education  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools  
National Council on Independent living  
National Disability Institute  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Health Law Program  
National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives  
National Respite Coalition  
National Association of School Psychologists  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Parent to Parent USA  
School Social Work Association of America  
SourceAmerica

The Advocacy Institute  
The Arc of the United States  
United Cerebral Palsy  
United Spinal Association