



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

**Rights Task Force, 2016 Annual Report**

The CCD Rights Task was actively engaged in advocating a wide range of issues supporting the civil and human rights of people with disabilities. Highlights included:

- Together with the Employment Task Force, we produced comments for CCD groups on the EEOC's proposed rule to implement Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act (affirmative action by federal agencies to increase employment of people with disabilities). We also pressed for issuance of the Section 501 rule at various meetings with the EEOC chair, and mobilized a letter to the President from 59 members and allies of CCD urging issuance of the regulation when it appeared to be "stuck."
- We wrote letters to the House and Senate opposing "ADA Notification" bills that would eliminate any liability for businesses that violate the accessibility requirements of ADA Title III unless a person with a disability provides the business with notice of the violations (including the specific ADA provisions violated) and a months-long period to fix the violation. We have done alerts and generated calls and comments opposing these bills. We provided comments for the record following a House Judiciary Committee hearing on the primary notification bill in the House, and we continue to advocate in opposition to these bills.
- Together with the Health Task Force, we submitted comments for CCD groups in response to the EEOC's proposed rule allowing penalties on employees whose spouses choose not to disclose disability-related information to a workplace wellness program. We worked closely with AARP, privacy groups, women's groups and other civil rights groups in generating opposition to these rules.
- Together with the LTSS Task Force, we submitted comments for CCD groups strongly supporting the FDA's proposed rule to ban the use of electric shock devices to treat self-injurious or aggressive behavior.
- We drafted a statement explaining the Supreme Court's importance to people with disabilities and calling on Senators to hold hearings and a vote to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court.
- Together with the Housing Task Force, we submitted comments on HUD's 'affirmatively furthering fair housing' assessment tools to guide public housing authorities and local governments in fair housing planning.
- Also with the Housing Task Force, we submitted comments in response to HUD's proposed rule to ban smoking in HUD public housing projects, and comments on the Census Bureau's proposed rule concerning the treatment of various types of residences for Census purposes.
- Rights and Housing Task Force co-chairs met with HUD to raise concerns about the omission of disability claims from a guidance document describing the Fair Housing Act's application to landlords' use of overbroad criminal background checks. We drafted

questions and answers for their use for purposes of a follow-up document concerning the use of criminal background checks to screen out tenants with disabilities.

- We submitted comments on a proposed rule by the Bureau of Justice Statistics implementing the Death in Custody Reporting Act.
- Together with the Social Security Task Force, we submitted comments opposing a proposed rule by SSA to report beneficiaries with a representative payee due to a mental disability to the NICS gun database.
- We submitted comments on DOT's initial proposed for a negotiated rulemaking under the Air Carrier Access Act concerning accessible lavatories, accessible in-flight entertainment. Following the negotiated rulemaking, we submitted comments to DOT together with the Transportation Task Force setting forth principles that should be reflected in DOT's planned rulemaking concerning service and support animals. Together with the Transportation Task Force, we sent a letter to the producers of Jimmy Kimmel Live raising concerns about a segment on the show that negatively and inaccurately portrayed users of support animals.
- With the Employment Task Force, we submitted comments on DOL's proposed rule implementing WIOA's non-discrimination requirements.

In the coming year, we will continue to defend the ADA and fight bills that weaken it (including "notification" bills). We will monitor implementation of the regulations under Section 501 and 503 of the Rehabilitation Act and insist on effective enforcement of these regulations by the EEOC and the Labor Department. We will advocate for a Congressional Review Act reversal of SSA's regulation requiring reporting of all beneficiaries with a representative payee due to a mental disability to the gun database. Broadly, we will take advantage of opportunities that arise to advance disability rights, and we will defend the protections that we have secured.

Co-chairs:

Jennifer Mathis (Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law)

Dara Baldwin (National Disability Rights Network)

Sandy Finucane (Epilepsy Foundation)

Samantha Crane (Autistic Self Advocacy Network)

Mark Richert (American Foundation for the Blind)