



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

**Rights Task Force, 2015 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 and Veterans Task Forces, we held meetings with OFCCP to discuss implementation and enforcement of Section 503, including ways for disability groups to assist. With OFCCP's help, we also began to collaborate with the National Industry Liaison Group, a federal contractor group that works closely with OFCCP.
- We spent significant time advocating and organizing to fight bills in both houses of Congress as well as an EEOC rulemaking aimed at rolling back the ADA's protections against employer-based wellness programs forcing employees to disclose disability-related information. Our work included numerous letters to Congress and the President, comments on proposed rules, meetings with congressional offices and EEOC leadership, organizing a massive response to the rulemaking from disability and many other groups, and serving as a witness in a Senate HELP committee hearing.
- Together with the Health and Technology Task Forces, we drafted comments in response to a proposed rulemaking from HHS OCR to implement the ACA's non-discrimination provision (Section 1557).
- Together with the Housing Task Force, we submitted comments on HUD's proposed rule to implement the Fair Housing Act's "affirmatively further fair housing" mandate as well as comments on a proposed tool for public housing authorities to use to guide them in the fair housing planning process.
- We supported the nomination of Michelle Bishop, NDRN's voting specialist, to serve on the election Assistance Commission. We also crafted a public statement for National Voter Registration Day that highlighted barriers faced by people with disabilities in exercising their right to vote.
- Together with the Social Security Task Force, we sent a detailed letter to SSA objecting to a proposal to presume in SSA benefits proceedings that certain accommodations are universally made available by employers.
- We advocated to prevent inclusion in a House appropriations bill of language urged by Voice of the Retarded, prohibiting the use of HHS funds for any activities that might downsize institutions serving individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- We submitted comments in response to ACL's draft guidance for adult protective services agencies in assisting people with disabilities.
- We supported the nomination of Loretta Lynch to serve as Attorney General of the US.
- We submitted detailed comments to the White House Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing describing issues that arise for people with a wide variety of disabilities during law enforcement encounters and making recommendations to address these issues.

- We wrote to House Energy and Commerce leadership to express concerns about Rep. Murphy's mental health bill, including elimination of much of the PAIMI program authority.
- Together with the Social Security Task Force, we met with the Social Security Administration to express concern and learn more about a proposal to report individuals with representative payees to the FBI's gun database.
- We joined a civil rights coalition letter opposing a House bill that would severely limit class action lawsuits, including disability rights lawsuits.
- We assisted in the development and passage of bipartisan resolutions in both houses of Congress recognizing the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ADA, the critical difference that the ADA has made in the lives of people with disabilities, and the work that remains to be done.

In the coming year, we will continue to monitor the Labor Department's enforcement of Section 503 and provide support to the Department in directing contractors to appropriate resources to help with recruitment of people with disabilities; will continue to press EEOC to issue a strong rule implementing Section 501; will continue to advocate for mental health legislation to preserve rights of individuals with psychiatric disabilities and be consistent with Olmstead; and will advocate to prevent adoption of a new proposal to report individuals with representative payees who have a mental health diagnosis from being reported to the FBI's gun database.

Co-chairs in 2015:

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)