



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

CCD Fiscal Policy Task Force Urges Congress to Reject the President's FY 2018 "Skinny" Budget

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Washington DC, March 16, 2017 - The Fiscal Policy Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), a national coalition of more than 100 national disability organizations, is alarmed by President Trump's so-called "skinny" FY 2018 budget. While this budget does not address substantial parts of the federal budget and provides remarkably little detail, it is clear that many of the changes it proposes would have dire consequences on people with disabilities, their families, and service providers.

"Discretionary programs provide many of the services and supports that make community living possible for people with disabilities," said Kim Musheno, CCD Chair. "Essential programs like education, employment, housing, and transportation would all take a hit under this budget. That this comes on top of the 15% cut for human service programs since 2010 when factoring in inflation and population growth makes this budget proposal unconscionable. CCD urges Congress to reject this budget and work across the political aisle on solutions that will address our nation's priorities without targeting people with disabilities."

The Budget contains double digit cuts to several priority agencies for people with disabilities:

- The budget would cut 18 percent from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the agency that operates the largest number of discretionary programs for people with disabilities. This includes elimination of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and \$403 million in cuts to health professions and nursing training programs.
- The 13 percent proposed cut for the Department of Education is the largest we have seen for education programs. Despite the level funding proposed for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), students with disabilities will be adversely affected by significant cuts to community schools, professional development, and class-size funding.
- Housing programs take a nearly identical hit with a 13.2 percent decrease for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, with only about half of the 7.5 billion in proposed cuts identified. We know, however, that public housing funding would be cut by 30 percent, resulting in the loss of about 200,000 housing choice vouchers.
- The Department of Labor would see a 21 percent decrease, including unspecified cuts to job training and employment service formula grants, projected to result in the loss of over 123,000 supported jobs.

These cuts will undoubtedly cause hardship for millions of Americans, including those with disabilities. We therefore respectfully urge Congress to reject this budget and to develop one that

does not harm people with disabilities and others to pay for increases in defense spending and tax cuts for corporations.

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a broad 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. For more information visit www.c-c-d.org.

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