



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

CCD Statement on the Fiscal 2016 Budget Agreement

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Washington, DC May 1, 2015 – The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), a national coalition of more than 100 organizations representing the needs of people with disabilities, opposes the fiscal 2016 budget resolution proposed by the conference committee and passed by the House of Representatives because it calls for significant cuts to Medicaid and non-defense discretionary programs that support the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities.

“This budget represents the wrong priorities for our country,” said Katy Neas, CCD Chair. “This Budget would balance the budget on the backs of our children, low-income individuals and families, and other vulnerable populations. Instead of cutting research, education, employment, health care and other things that help people with disabilities, we should be making smart investments in them that will help to improve lives and strengthen our economy.”

The budget passed by the House yesterday includes the sequestered spending caps for 2016 and includes even deeper cuts to non-defense discretionary programs like education, employment, housing, transportation, independent living, caregiver, veterans and other supports for people with disabilities in the out years.

The budget also recommends significant cuts to Medicaid and opens the door for significant structural changes to the program that could eliminate the guarantee that current Medicaid services will be available. This will likely create barriers to coverage of medically necessary services and long-term care services for children and adults with disabilities. Medicaid is a critical lifeline for people with disabilities – financing long-term supports and services, preventative care and treatment. Cuts in Medicaid will prevent people with the most severe disabilities from living in the community and avoiding costly institutionalization. Potential structural changes to Medicaid and Medicare will result in shifting costs to states and to individual consumers. This will burden already strained state budgets and will lead to further cuts to human service programs.

Cuts to non-defense discretionary spending -- which funds everything from veteran’s services to medical and scientific research, highways, education, housing, transportation and more -- will deeply affect people with disabilities. Under the budget agreement, many more people with and without disabilities will lose access to both physical and mental health care. Veterans would not benefit from critical employment services, people with disabilities and elders will lose access to community-based services and supports enabling them to stay out of costly institutions, and children will not have access to supports and services in schools. This is not the America that CCD envisions for anyone. We therefore respectfully urge Congress to reject this budget.

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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