



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

**CCD urges Congress to Reject the House Budget**

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*Washington, DC March 15, 2016* – The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), a national coalition of more than 100 organizations representing the needs of people with disabilities, opposes the budget resolution proposed by House Budget Committee Chairman Tom Price, M.D. (R-GA) because it calls for deep cuts and structural changes to Medicaid, dramatic spending cuts for non-defense discretionary programs that support the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities, and would lead to tens of millions of Americans losing their health insurance or becoming underinsured.

“The programs that would be cut by Chairman Price’s budget make up the safety net for people with disabilities,” said Kim Musheno, CCD Chair. “CCD urges Congress to reject the budget and work across the political aisle on solutions that will improve our nation’s fiscal health without targeting our most vulnerable citizens.”

The proposal would cut overall discretionary spending under the Budget Control Act caps by \$620 billion over the next decade. Within the reduced discretionary caps, the budget would increase defense spending by \$267 billion, while cutting non-defense programs by \$887 billion between FY 2017-2026. Slashing 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 House budget proposal, many more people with and without disabilities will be in dire straits, losing 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.

The budget introduced yesterday would increase the number of uninsured by making cuts to Medicaid -- a critical lifeline for adults with disabilities that finances long-term supports and services. The budget also proposes targeted cuts to Social Security benefits for people with disabilities-- eliminating concurrent Social Security disability benefits for beneficiaries who are attempting to work but have lost a job through no fault of their own and as a result, qualify for Unemployment Insurance. This cut could significantly erode the economic security and well-being of people with disabilities.

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](http://www.c-c-d.org).

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