



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

2017 Annual Report of the CCD Veterans Task Force

The task force continued to follow major pieces of legislation and regulatory actions affecting veterans with disabilities throughout the year as well as hosted a number of speakers on particular topics of interest to the members. The task force also updated a number of issue briefs pertaining to health care reform, VEVRAA/Section 503 and Social Security caregiver credits that have been posted on the CCD website.

Employment of veterans with disabilities consumed a significant amount of the task force's time. Early in the year, members heard a presentation about the performance of the state workforce system in serving veterans with significant disabilities. In July, the task force received a briefing about Bureau of Labor Statistics data covering veterans with a particular focus on those with disabilities. The task force also wrote a letter to the National Association of State Workforce Agencies in support of that organization's recommendations for broadening the workforce system's definition of Significant Barriers to Employment to encompass greater numbers of veterans with significant disabilities. The co-chairs regularly attended and reported on meetings of the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS) briefings for veterans' service organizations and joined with co-chairs of the Rights Task Force in an informal meeting with EEOC Commissioner-designate Dan Gade. The task force joined with other CCD task forces in objecting to efforts by Congress to undo regulations strengthening enforcement of VEVRAA and Section 503 obligations of federal contractors.

Other legislation that the task force supported in communications with Congress included H.R. 1712, the Protection and Advocacy for Veterans Act, and S. 1473, the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program. In the regulatory space, the task force offered comments on an advanced notice of Funding Availability for the Disabled and Low-Income Veterans Housing Program which was authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

Plans for 2018 - In 2018, the task force expects to continue monitoring implementation of the Veterans Choice Program, advocating for expansion of the VA caregiver program and following legislative and regulatory issues affecting employment of veterans with disabilities. The task force is also interested in convening a cross-task force and allied organization forum to examine ongoing issues affecting veterans and military family members with disabilities in the Medicaid program.

Submitted by the cochairs:

Heather Ansley, Paralyzed Veterans of America

Maynard Friesz, Easterseals

Susan Prokop, Paralyzed Veterans of America