



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

November 14, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Cole and Blunt and Ranking Members DeLauro and Murray:

As you work to complete the fiscal year (FY) 2017 appropriations process, the undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Veterans Task Force and supporting veterans service organizations (VSOs) urge you to support no less than \$50 million for the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP).

The CCD Veterans Task Force advocates for legislation and policies affecting veterans with disabilities. The CCD Veterans Task Force regularly collaborates with leading VSOs on issues important to veterans, including the goal of ending veteran homelessness.

As the only federal nationwide program focused exclusively on the employment needs of veterans who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, HVRP is key to our nation's strategy to end veterans' homelessness. HVRP equips homeless veterans with employment tools and community supports needed to rejoin the labor market and to secure stable housing. Last year, 17,000 veterans, including about 20 percent who were veterans with disabilities, benefited from HVRP services and the program's holistic, case management approach of linking veterans to critical community supports. Combined with housing-first programs, HVRP was instrumental in the 47 percent reduction in veterans' homelessness since 2010.

In September, Congress recognized the unfinished business in ending veteran homelessness by extending and recommending \$50 million for HVRP in fiscal year 2017 (P.L. 114-228). The

House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee took the first step toward delivering on that goal by recommending the authorized funding level for HVRP in H.R. 5926. The Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee recommended a smaller increase for HVRP in its bill, S. 3040. **As you work out the differences between the two bills, we ask that you provide no less than \$50 million for HVRP in the final FY 2017 bill.**

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Maynard Friesz at 202-403-8345 or mfriesz@easterseals.com.

Sincerely,

CCD Task Force Members & Supporting Organizations:

ACCSES

American Association on Health and Disability

Easterseals

Goodwill Industries International

Lakeshore Foundation

National Association for Black Veterans (Nabvets)

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

National Disability Rights Network

Paralyzed Veterans of America

VetsFirst, a program of United Spinal Association

Vietnam Veterans of America [VVA]