



February 8, 2008

Dear:

On behalf of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), Fiscal Policy Task Force, we are writing to express our deep concern regarding the President's FY 2009 proposed budget and respectfully urge Congress to provide meaningful investments in critical programs that ensures the self determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

The CCD is a coalition of over 100 national disability organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. The Fiscal Policy Task Force monitors and responds to budget policies that affect people with disabilities and their families.

The Administration's budget would seriously cut or flat-fund critical research, training, education, housing and community-based services and supports that are necessary in helping people with disabilities remain healthy, obtain and retain employment and to be able to live independently in the community.

For example, the President's budget calls for significant cuts to critical public health programs, including a \$475 million cut to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a \$992 million decrease for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as well as significant back-door cuts to the Medicare and Medicaid programs through proposed regulations and significant cuts to providers of services without doing anything to solve real issue of high health care costs. It also cuts funding for Section 811 housing for people with disabilities in half from the previous year's funding levels and eliminates the Traumatic Brain Injury Program within the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA).

In addition, the proposal once again eliminates supported employment and other employment programs that help people with disabilities find jobs and become independent, tax-paying citizens; and either cuts or flat-funds education programs that does the most to help level the playing field for citizens with disabilities.

CCD urges the U.S. Congress to reject the administration's budget cuts and to address the "unfinished business before us"—to provide programs that increase the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their family members. The services and supports targeted by the Bush administration enable millions of Americans with disabilities to learn, work, pay taxes, live in their communities, and make significant contributions to our society.

Thank you for considering our views.

For further information, please contact any of the individuals listed below.

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