



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

July 26, 2006

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Fiscal Policy Task Force, we are writing to respectfully urge you NOT to support HR 5766, HR. 3282 or any other sunset commission legislation that would have irreversible negative implications for health and human services programs that support people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations to lead healthy lives and contribute to their communities.

The CCD is a coalition of 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 Task Force is extremely troubled with the sunset commission legislation being proposed that is a highly extraordinary departure from longstanding rules designed to ensure bi-partisan deliberation and sound policymaking, and to maintain the delicate balance between the authorities of the legislative and executive branch. With its recommendations "fast-tracked," Congress and the committees of jurisdiction would be left with just a single up or down vote, potentially involving hundreds of programs impacting education, employment, transportation and other programs upon which people with disabilities rely to be independent and productive in the community. Congress would lose substantial power in its role in checks and balances and its ability to be responsive to the needs of their constituents with disabilities and their allies.

In addition, programs like Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP, which provide important health and long term care for people with disabilities, could be overhauled or even eliminated by a narrow, partisan majority. Significant changes and cutbacks to Medicaid, Medicare and SCHIP could be quickly moved through Congress with very little debate.

Because of these ill-conceived provisions that we believe are not well-understood, we urge you to withdraw or refrain from supporting the HR 5766, HR 3282 or from supporting other legislation containing a sunset commission.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

CCD Fiscal Policy Co-Chairs:

Paul Marchand

The Arc/UCP Policy Collaboration

Donna Meltzer

Epilepsy Foundation

Kim Musheno

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

