



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

March 21, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
House Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
House Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

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

On behalf of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Autism, Developmental Disabilities and Family Supports Task Force and undersigned organizational members of the taskforce, we write to urge adequate Fiscal Year 2020 funding for programs authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act) and State Assistive Technology Programs.

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for Federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. The mission of the task force is to advocate for federal public policies that directly relate to individuals with developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, family supports and the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act Programs

We respectfully request a FY 2020 funding level of \$80,000,000 for the State and Territorial Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils); \$44,000,000 for the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (PADD) program; \$44,000,000 for the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD); and \$14 million under the ACL/AIDD program for the Projects of National Significance in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (PNS). These programs were created under the Developmental

Disabilities and Bill of Rights Assistance Act of 2000 (DD Act) and are located in every state and territory.

The DD Act established DD Councils, P&As, and UCEDDs (DD Act programs) to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities through capacity building, systems change, advocacy, and the enforcement and protection of civil rights. The DD Act programs have been integral to the growth and development of service systems across the nation that states alone would not have capacity to do. For example, the DD Act programs work with state governments, advocates, and other stakeholders to:

- 1) Invest in programs tailored to the needs of the state that help people with developmental disabilities live in the community;
- 2) Conduct extensive interdisciplinary training on cutting-edge service strategies and evidenced-based practices, continuing education, community training, research, model services, technical assistance, and information dissemination to promote community living;
- 3) Provide advocacy, legal and direct services to ensure that children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities are free from abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation.

We also request continued support for Administration for Community Living's Administration for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities' Projects of National Significance (PNS). PNS fill critical research gaps and invest in demonstration projects targeting emerging needs. For example, PNS gather and report longitudinal data on the costs of, status of, and trends in residential, in-home, individual, family and employment services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. PNS also provide technical assistance to strengthen and support service network and disseminates research and best practices and funds demonstration projects in emerging areas such as cost-effective family supports, increasing employment opportunities, and ensuring an adequate supply of qualified caregivers. PNS also inform policy makers and stakeholders about critical emerging needs (e.g., babies born with Zika infection and cost-effective supports and services for an aging population).

State Assistive Technology Programs

We respectfully request a FY 2020 funding level of \$40 million for the Assistive Technology (AT) Act programs. The AT Act provides critical funding for programs that assure people with disabilities can access and acquire the assistive technology devices and services they need to live, work, and attend school in their communities.

Statewide AT programs provide information and assistance, training, technical assistance, and coordination and collaboration, of programs that are available for persons with all types of disabilities, all ages, in all environments (education, employment, community living and information technology). Programs include state financing activities (such as financial loans, cooperative buy, funds of last resort, etc.), device reutilization (including recycling, repair, refurbishment and device exchange), device loan/borrowing and device demonstration services. While individuals with disabilities, their families and guardians are the primary beneficiaries of

services, the AT Act requires states AT programs to provide a wide range of services and supports to other stakeholders such as educators, employers, health care providers, rehabilitation providers, and technology experts including web designers, procurement officials and AT manufacturers and vendors.

Despite fiscal constraints over the past decade, DD Councils, P&As, UCEDDs, and PNS continue to engage in creating positive systems change in communities. Additionally, many states have improved the availability of assistive technology required under the AT Act. However, full funding is necessary to meet the demand for these important programs. Assuring the levels of funding we request for FY 2020 recognizes the critical role Congress plays in research, program development, education, advocacy, and training that protects the civil rights and enhances the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued attention to these important national priorities. For more information please contact Erin Pranglely at epranglely@nacdd.org.

Sincerely,

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)
American Music Therapy Association
American Network of Community Options & Resources (ANCOR)
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Center for Public Representation
Easterseals
Lutheran Services in America-Disability Network
Madison House Autism Foundation
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Disability Institute
National Disability Rights Network
National Respite Coalition
TASH
The Arc of the United States