



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

CCD Fiscal Policy Task Force Statement on the Senate's Passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

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Washington, DC, December 5, 2017 - Early on December 2, the Senate narrowly passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The Fiscal Policy Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) is extremely disappointed by this vote and concerned about the long-term negative impact a final bill will have on the lives of people with disabilities and their families.

“This bill will have a long-lasting impact on all Americans, but especially people with disabilities,” stated Kim Musheno, CCD Chair. “People with disabilities and families are already suffering from inadequate funding for supports that enable them to live and work in the community. CCD urges the Congress to slow this process down to allow citizens and policymakers to fully understand the impact of this bill on individuals and families.”

While we have not yet fully analyzed the Senate-passed bill, CCD has already [pointed out](#) that both the House and Senate bills present serious threats to people with disabilities because they:

- Dramatically reduce tax revenues to provide tax cuts that disproportionately benefit the more prosperous and large corporations.
- Build pressure to cut Medicaid, Medicare, Supplemental Security Income, and other critical programs for people with disabilities to make up for lost revenue stemming from the tax cuts.

The Senate bill is even more harmful as it repeals the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate. This action will result in 13 million fewer people with health insurance and premium hikes of ten percent in the insurance marketplace, according to the Congressional Budget Office. The individual mandate helps make possible non-discrimination in health care for people with

disabilities, such as preventing insurers from charging more for people with pre-existing conditions and banning annual and lifetime limits on benefits.

CCD urges the House and Senate to not negotiate a final bill that violates our [principles for tax reform](#). Unfortunately, both versions of the tax bills that have been passed violate our principles by decreasing revenue to an extent that revenue is insufficient to continue to fund the programs and services and supports for people with disabilities at current levels or above and by exacerbating the severe wealth inequality that exists between most Americans and the most prosperous.

CCD urges Congress to reject H.R. 1 and start over to work on bipartisan solutions that will address our nation's priorities without harming people with disabilities. If Congress chooses to move forward with this tax cut that disproportionately benefits the wealthiest Americans and corporations, which CCD strongly opposes, we urge that a final bill exclude the most harmful provisions for people with disabilities in either or both of the bills that have been passed - full repeal of the Individual Mandate for Health Insurance Coverage, the Medical Expense Deduction, the Disabled Access Credit, and the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and limitations on the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, incentives for Charitable Deductions, the Orphan Drugs Credit, and State & Local Tax Deduction. Removal of these provisions, however, would not fix the enormous problems with H.R. 1 and we urge Congress not to pass it.

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is the nation's largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the education, self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. For more information visit www.c-c-d.org.