



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

July 30, 2019

Dear Senator:

The undersigned members of the Fiscal Policy Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) urge you to vote for the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2019. 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 BBA of 2019 provides a meaningful two-year increase to the nondefense discretionary (NDD) part of the budget that includes numerous programs that people with disabilities rely on to live in the community. Beyond averting the \$55 billion in cuts scheduled to take effect on October 1, the measure increases funding for NDD programs by \$56.5 billion over the next two years above the current funding level. People with disabilities, their families, advocates, and service providers are greatly relieved that the range of NDD programs - that include housing, employment, education, transportation, research and much more – can see actual increases instead of further cuts after years of austerity.

We also greatly appreciate that the measure does not include any harmful offsets, such as reduction in benefits or eligibility for essential mandatory programs like Medicaid and Social Security. Once the BBA is enacted, we trust that Congress will ensure that proportional relief is provided across the NDD appropriations bills and that these bills can all be enacted before deadline of September 30.

Sincerely,

Allies for Independence
American Network of Community Options and Resources
Autism Society of America
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Disability Rights Network
The Arc of the United States