



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

President's FY 2020 Budget Is Another Un-American Attack on People with Disabilities

Washington DC, March 18, 2019 - The Co-Chairs of the Fiscal Policy Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), the largest coalition of national disability organizations, are once again deeply troubled by the vision that the Administration has laid out for Americans 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.

Just like last year's budget, the FY 2020 proposal deeply cuts programs that support the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities. It proposes cutting fiscal year 2020 non-defense discretionary spending by \$54 billion (9 percent) below the 2019 level, and by \$69 billion (11 percent) after adjusting for inflation. It justifies these extreme cuts as necessary measures to reign in deficits, a concern that was not the least bit in evidence when the 2017 tax law - that has increased deficits substantially and primarily benefits the most prosperous segment of society - was enacted.

As supporting departmental budgets have continued to be released, it is becoming clearer that the proposed cuts are particularly targeted toward disability-related programs:

Medicaid. The President's Budget would drastically cut Medicaid funding by close to 1.5 trillion dollars over 10 years through per capita caps and assumes the repeal of critical provisions such as the funding for the Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act and requirements for adequate benefits and affordable health plans that protect people with pre-existing conditions.

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The President's Budget would cut more than \$84 billion over 10 years out of Social Security's disability programs, including SSI.

Developmental Disabilities (DD) Act Programs. The President's Budget provides double digit cuts to three of the four DD Act programs - State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (-26%), University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (-20%), and Projects of National Significance (-92%).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP). The President's Budget cuts food assistance under SNAP by more than \$220 billion over 10 years, a reduction of 30%.

Social Services. The President's Budget practically eliminates the Social Services Block Grant (-95%), a flexible source of funds used by states to help prevent abuse and neglect, provide

family supports, and prevent the institutionalization of persons with disabilities, among other things.

Housing. The President's budget makes significant cuts to affordable housing programs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including reducing funding for the Section 811 Housing for People with Disabilities program to \$157 million, \$27 million less than the FY19 level (-17%) and completely eliminates funding for the HOME program and National Housing Trust Fund.

Work Requirements. As members of CCD detailed in a [February 7, 2018 letter](#), Medicaid work requirements will result in hundreds of thousands of low-income Americans, including people with disabilities, losing access to Medicaid services.

School Choice. The President's Budget proposes a new tax credit of \$50 billion over ten years to support private schools. Such initiatives are purportedly for giving more decision-making power to parents and families. However, only private schools - that do not have to accept nor appropriately serve students with disabilities - would actually be given such power.

"The President's FY2020 budget is extremely disappointing. President Trump promised to protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid during his campaign and his FY 2020 budget proposal breaks those promises yet again," stated Lisa Ekman, CCD Chair. "It includes deep cuts to the programs that have made it possible for people with disabilities to get jobs, live in the community, keep a roof over their heads, and put food on their tables. If enacted, this budget would reverse decades of progress for Americans with disabilities. It is simply unacceptable."

"CCD once again urges Congress to reject the President's Budget for what it is, a transparent assault on people with disabilities and other low-income Americans to finance ill-advised tax cuts for the wealthiest individuals and large corporations."

The Consortium for Citizens with disabilities 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. For more information visit www.c-c-d.org or contact Annie Acosta, 202-783-2229 or acosta@thearc.org; Eric Buehlmann, 202-408-9514, eric.buehlmann@ndrn.org; Lisa Ekman, 202-550-9996 or Lisa.Ekman@nosscr.org; Donna Meltzer, 202-506-5813 or dmeltzer@nacdd.org

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