



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

**CCD FISCAL POLICY TASK FORCE
2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

With the help of all CCD Task Force Co-Chairs, the Fiscal Policy Task Force developed a table outlining CCD's fiscal priorities for FY 2009 along with a report containing justifications for its recommendations. This document was subsequently faxed by CCD members to all Members of Congress.

The Fiscal Policy Task Force also worked in coalition with other organizations representing education, employment, and health programs to increase the overall funding for health and human services in the budget resolution. The Task Force joined with these partners to advocate for increased funding for programs within the FY 2009 funding bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education.

Some of the specific activities of the Task Force included:

- Assisted in developing an overall funding recommendation in the FY 09 Budget Resolution (Function 550) for the Coalition for Health Funding.
- Developed a press release in response to the President's Budget proposal.
- Met White House officials regarding the President's budget request.
- Met with House and Senate leadership to advocate for CCD's funding recommendations.
- Provided a Capitol Hill briefing to House and Senate staff on CCD's funding recommendations.
- Advocated for funding programs authorized but not funded during the 110th Congress such as the Lifespan Respite Care Act.
- Supported the Social Security Task Force efforts to increase funding for the Social Security Administration to deal with backlog and delays in the disability claims program.
- Advocated for increased funding levels for health and human services in economic stimulus packages.
- Provided recommendations to be included in the CCD recommendations to the Obama Transition Team and new Congress.
- Provided updates to CCD membership on appropriations status throughout the FY 09 budget and appropriations process.

The CCD Fiscal Policy Task Force provided the following recommendations to the Obama Administration and 111th Congress:

- Address the significant unmet needs of people with disabilities and their families by increasing existing federal funding and expanding the federal government's investment in people with disabilities to enable them to live and work as independently as possible in the community with appropriate flexible long term individual and family supports;
- Ensure that eligibility for services and benefits is not restricted and that the level of services and benefits for entitlement programs is not reduced or limited in order to achieve a balanced budget; and
- Remove the Social Security Administration's administrative budget from any budget cap requirements for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.
- Address the unmet needs of people with disabilities and their families before making further tax cuts or reforming tax policy so that it negatively impacts low wage earners and other vulnerable people;
- Protect low income tax payers from paying higher taxes;
- Protect the Social Security trust funds for use by future beneficiaries;
- Raise sufficient revenues to balance the annual budget and finance the federal government's role in providing essential supports, services, and benefits for people with disabilities and their families;
- Roll back or repeal tax cuts and adjust other tax policies that create a deficit or put existing disability programs at risk; and
- Assure the continuing ability of non-governmental entities to support people with disabilities and their families.

The Task Force will work in coordination with all the task forces to implement these recommendations in the coming year.

Fiscal Policy Task Force Co-Chairs in 2008:

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