



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

February 25, 2021

Senator Tina Smith
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Smith:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) and allies write in support of your efforts to include adult dependents in stimulus payments. Many adult dependents are people with disabilities or older adults and throughout this pandemic many have been isolating to remain safe and have received no economic support since the beginning of the pandemic. We thank you for your work to make sure all dependents are treated equitably and receive the help they need during this difficult time. 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.

Your bill, the All Dependents Count Act (S. 261), would retroactively authorize stimulus checks for adult dependents who were excluded from the payments authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Unfortunately, dependents over the age of 16 were not included in either piece of legislation, leaving many adults with disabilities and older adults without this crucial economic support. Because of the heightened risk they face from COVID, many adults with disabilities and older adults have completely changed their routines, isolating and protecting themselves, but also facing increased costs from personal protective equipment and delivery fees. Many have also faced disruptions in care as usual services were changed to adapt to the pandemic and direct care workers were exposed to COVID and must quarantine. Often, this has resulted in relying more heavily on support from family and friends. It is crucially important that adult dependents receive the same economic support that others received, as the All Dependents Count Act would authorize. It is also crucial that adult dependents be included in any additional stimulus payments authorized by Congress.

We stand ready to work with you on this issue and thank you for your efforts to ensure everyone receives the financial help they need to get through this crisis. Please contact Bethany Lilly (lilly@thearc.org) with any questions or to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,

American Foundation for the Blind
American Network of Community Options & Resources (ANCOR)
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Autism Society of America
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Center for Public Representation
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
Easterseals
Epilepsy Foundation
Justice in Aging
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Disability Institute
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR)
Paralyzed Veterans of America
RespectAbility
Social Security Works
Special Needs Alliance
TASH
The Arc of the United States
Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement