



**CONSORTIUM FOR CONSTITUENTS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Autism, DD, and Family Support Task Force Priorities

Autism CARES Act

- The Task Force anticipates working to educate Congress about the [Autism CARES Act](#). The Law must be reauthorized by September 30, 2024. This seminal legislation, which has been reauthorized repeatedly since its first iteration in 2006, authorizes programs at the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Health Resources and Services Administration. Research, surveillance, and training are supported by Autism CARES provisions, as is the federal advisory body on autism, the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee.

Developmental Disabilities

- Protect and fully fund the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act programs that include the Protection and Advocacy Program for Developmental Disabilities, State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities that are located in every state and territory and collaboratively work together to ensure “individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life, through culturally competent programs. These programs conduct research, provide training, disseminate information, provide legally-based advocacy services, technical assistance and more to persons with developmental disabilities, so they can live self-determined lives in their communities.

Family Support

- Significantly increase funding for the [Lifespan Respite Care Act](#) so that every state is funded to serve everyone who needs this family support.
- Support enactment and the implementation of recommendations put forth by the RAISE Family Caregiver counsels.
- Support legislation that provides training and support, such as the [Autism Family Caregiver Act](#).

Civil Rights

- Support legislation such as the “[Augmentative and Alternative Communication Centers to Establish National Training Act](#)” or the “AACCENT Act” or similar legislation to provide

national training and technical assistance to ensure that all individuals with significant disabilities affecting communication have access to communication devices, services, and supports the individuals need to fully participate in society.

- Work with the FDA to ban the use of electric devices on human beings.

Appropriations

- Ensure robust funding to support people with developmental disabilities to live self-determined lives in their communities by increasing funding for the Developmental Disabilities Act (DD Act) including the the Protection and Advocacy Program for Developmental Disabilities, State Councils on Developmental Disabilities and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Autism CARES Act, Lifespan Respite Act, Assistive Technology Act, the Lifespan Respite Care Act, and the National Family Caregiver Support Program and Parent Information Centers.