



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Developmental Disabilities, Autism, & Family Support Task Force Annual Report for 2016

2016 ACTIVITIES

The Task Force met monthly, with a few exceptions. This year was spent working on:

- the successful reauthorization of the Older Americans Act which included the eligibility fix to the act's National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). The NFCSP program now includes parents (age 55+) of persons with disabilities who are between the ages of 18 and 59.
- legislation to help prevent and reduce harm from wandering/elopement by persons with autism and other developmental disabilities by providing training and technology to first responders.
- supporting the reauthorization of the Lifespan Respite Act.
- supporting legislation to create a national strategy to support family caregivers, a recommendation of the Commission on Long-Term Care.
- information sharing and supporting prevention efforts on the Zika virus and environmental chemical exposures.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Task Force will:

- work to protect vital mandatory and discretionary programs that fund priority programs relevant to persons with developmental disabilities and their caregivers.
- continue working on implementation of the Autism CARES Act of 2014.
- continue to advocate for the reauthorization of the Lifespan Respite Act and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and advocate for the enactment of separate legislation to create a national strategy to support family caregivers, to require certain employers to provide paid leave, and to expand eligibility for unpaid leave to siblings of persons with disabilities.
- continue to weigh in on legislation to prevent and reduce the risk and harm of wandering/elopement by persons with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities.
- continue to coordinate with and support primary prevention efforts.

CO-CHAIRS IN 2016:

Annie Acosta - The Arc

Sam Crane - Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)

Esme Grant - American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)

Jill Kagan - National Respite Coalition

Cindy Smith - National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Stuart Spielman - Autism Speaks