



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

**Employment and Training Task Force
Annual Report 2017**

Despite the lack of significant changes in the regulatory environment around employment opportunities for people with disabilities, the Employment and Training Task Force has made its voice and views known where possible. This has taken the form of testimony to Congress and active collaboration with other Task Forces on key issues. For example, we began the year by developing a detailed list of workforce and disability questions for the confirmation hearings of key nominees.

However, as the year developed, disability employment issues took on a secondary importance to the life or death fights around health care access and attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. During that period, we commented on budget cuts and their potential impact on employment and training programs administered by the Department of Labor. In the fall, the Task Force actively developed materials as part of the CCD's collectively response to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. Specifically, the Task Force wrote language defending the Workforce Opportunity Tax Credit. Our Task Force also collaborated with the Social Security Task Force to respond to concerning language in the FY 2018 Labor-HHS appropriations report. Specifically, we collaborated with our colleagues on Social Security about appropriations language that would directly threaten the long-term future of SSA's to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program.

The Task Force has also continued to monitor implementation issues related to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). We have dialogued with career staff from both the Office of Disability Employment Policy and the Employment and Training Administration. Information from those conversations informed the development of a short report given to Committee on Education and the Workforce as well as the Senate HELP committee. Those findings were shared by witnesses at a hearing before a [subcommittee hearing](#) in June. In November, we finalized and distributed a letter to the members of the newly appointed Apprenticeship Task Force at DOL.

This year has been a learning opportunity for our Task Force. New co-chairs are growing into the scope of responsibilities involved with the Task Force and continuing co-chairs have been instrumental in contributing to the larger efforts around disability rights under the new Administration. Each of us is eager to continue our contributions to the CCD and the year ahead.

We are beginning the new year with key, high level meetings as further nominees take their place at both Labor and Education. We are also moving forward on a collaborative work group with the Social Security Task Force to respond to an RFI from the Social Security Administration regarding the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

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