



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

CCD Fiscal Policy Task Force Initial Review of the President's FY 2018 Budget

Contact: Donna Meltzer, 202-506-5813 or dmeltzer@nacdd.org
Kim Musheno, 301-588-8252 or kmusheno@aucd.org
Annie Acosta, 202-783-2229 or acosta@thearc.org

Washington DC, May 24, 2017 - The Fiscal Policy Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), a national coalition of more than 100 national disability organizations, is extremely disappointed by priorities outlined in the Fiscal Year 2018 full budget released by President Trump yesterday. Titled "*A New Foundation for American Greatness*," this plan cuts over a trillion dollars from programs that support people with disabilities in the community to help pay for tax cuts for those who are already prospering.

CCD's Fiscal Policy Task Force takes particular issue with the following proposals that are direct assaults on the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities:

- An additional cut of over \$610 billion to the Medicaid program beyond the over \$800 billion cut in the House-passed American Health Care Act. This cut results from giving States new flexibilities to operate their Medicaid programs under per capita caps or block grants beginning in Fiscal Year 2020. The per capita cap option will result in cuts in eligibility, services, and/or provider rates while the block grant option would do even further harm by allowing states to eliminate basic standards and safeguards.
- Over \$74.2 billion cut from Social Security and Supplemental Security Income over 10 years, including \$72.4 billion proposed in cuts to Social Security's disability programs. The disability programs are an integral part of our Social Security system, a fact that cannot be obscured by attempts to artificially differentiate between Social Security's "core" retirement programs and its disability programs.
- Elimination of funding to states for Councils on Developmental Disabilities, independent living services, and traumatic brain injury services to be replaced with a new "innovation" program with less than half of the funding for the three programs.
- An almost twenty percent cut to NIH funds that include research on the causes of and successful interventions to address disabilities.
- A decrease of \$35 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention efforts in surveillance and prevention of developmental disabilities.
- A \$25 million cut to the Housing and Urban Development Section 811 program, leaving the program with insufficient funds to renew all existing project-based rental assistance contracts in FY 2018 thereby placing current lease compliant tenants in 811 properties at imminent risk of homelessness.
- The complete elimination of research on evidence-based interventions and medical training for health professionals for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities authorized by the Autism CARES Act and administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

- Elimination of the Paralysis Resource Center which provides programs, resources and services focused on the promotion of independence and quality of life for the 5,600,000 Americans living with paralysis.
- New funding for unproven, controversial education programs – like private school voucher schemes – that often strip children with disabilities from their rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and result in hidden costs to their families while making no new investments in IDEA.

“President Trump promised he would not cut Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid,” stated Kim Musheno,” CCD Chair. “He further promised to create jobs for everyone. Instead, this plan would reverse decades of progress for our citizens with disabilities by making deep cuts to the very programs that have made it possible for people with disabilities to get jobs, live in the community, and stay out of more expensive and unchosen institutional settings.”

CCD urges Congress to reject this budget and work across the political aisle on solutions that will address our nation’s priorities without targeting people with disabilities.

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a broad coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the education, self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. For more information visit www.c-c-d.org.

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