



July 6, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

The undersigned organizational members of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) write to oppose the devastating cuts to the subcommittee allocations that were approved on June 15. We are deeply concerned about the significantly lower allocation levels compared to the caps set in the bipartisan budget agreement. The 302(b) numbers fall roughly \$119 billion below the nondefense budget cap or FY 2022 levels agreed upon in the bipartisan agreement.

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 free from racism, ableism, sexism, and xenophobia, as well as LGBTQ+ based discrimination and religious intolerance. We are united in our stance against these detrimental cuts that will severely impact the lives of people with disabilities.

It is important to highlight that many federal departments including the Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, Labor, Agriculture, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development fund crucial programs for individuals with disabilities. However, these programs are all at risk of facing over 25% in cuts.

Such drastic cuts will have grave consequences for housing assistance, education programs, healthcare, transportation, food assistance, employment opportunities, and other vital supports and services that are integral to the well-being of people with disabilities, many of whom already live with low incomes or in poverty. These needless reductions in funding will undoubtedly result in increased homelessness, children going without food, and a lack of transportation options for individuals seeking employment. Tragically, some individuals may even lose their lives due to the severity of these cuts.

Furthermore, we are deeply concerned that continued disagreements from the agreed upon allocations could result in a government shutdown that would greatly disrupt the lives of hundreds of thousands of federal employees and contractors with disabilities.

We implore you to recognize the immense harm that these cuts will inflict on individuals with disabilities and to take immediate action to rectify this situation. Our nation's commitment to inclusivity and compassion must not be compromised by short-sighted budgetary decisions.

We respectfully request that you agree to the funding levels for non-defense discretionary programs to at least the levels agreed to in the Fiscal Responsibility Act.

Investing in programs that directly benefit individuals with disabilities is not only morally right but also economically beneficial, as it fosters independence, productivity, and a stronger society as a whole. Please contact CCD Fiscal Policy Task Force Co-Chairs Kim Musheno at [kmusheno@autism-society.org](mailto:kmusheno@autism-society.org) and Cindy Smith at [csmith@aucd.org](mailto:csmith@aucd.org) with any questions.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Undersigned organizations

American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Music Therapy Association  
Amputee Coalition  
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs  
American Association on Health and Disability  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Autism Society of America  
Autism Speaks  
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
CommunicationFIRST  
Council for Exceptional Children  
Division for Learning Disabilities - Council for Exceptional Children  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education (HECSE)  
Justice in Aging  
Lakeshore Foundation  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Respite Coalition

Pandemic Patients

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Special Needs Alliance

Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children (TED)

TASH

The Advocacy Institute

The Arc of the United States

The Kelsey