



August 5, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities Statement on the Inflation Reduction Act

Dear Leader Schumer and Ranking Member Wyden:

We are writing as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities regarding the most recent draft we have reviewed of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. Just last week the nation marked the 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA found that discrimination against individuals with disabilities persists, including in areas such as health services and transportation. The proposed bill includes key provisions that would improve the lives of people with disabilities in these areas. We encourage and applaud efforts in accordance with the Congressional intent of the ADA.

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. Our support of key provisions in this legislation is based on long-standing positions taken by our Health and Transportation Task Forces.

The Inflation Reduction Act includes numerous provisions that positively impact access to patient care that will benefit persons with disabilities including a three-year extension of premium subsidies to maintain access to Affordable Care Act health insurance, and a series of provisions designed to reduce the cost of prescription drugs. CCD is particularly pleased that the bill creates a maximum out-of-pocket cap under Medicare Part D. This will allow Medicare beneficiaries to afford prescription drugs to a greater extent than they do now. Simply put, a cap on out-of-pocket costs will help people with disabilities and chronic conditions better manage the costs of prescription drugs. CCD also supports the inclusion of language expanding the Part D Low-Income Subsidy. Finally, the bill includes language that addresses a key disability concern about the use of Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALY's) by banning the use of evidence or findings from comparative effectiveness research that treats extending the life of a person with a disability as of lower value than extending the life of an individual without a disability.

In addition, the Inflation Reduction Act's Neighborhood Access and Grant Equity Program provides necessary support for accessible, affordable and safe transportation. Funding could be used towards accessible sidewalk improvements, curb ramps, audible pedestrian signals, safety improvements for vulnerable road users, assessing transportation equity and expanding public participation in transportation planning by individuals and organizations in disadvantaged or underserved communities. People with disabilities rely on access to transportation to live in and contribute to their community. Inaccessible transportation can be a barrier to education, employment, medical appointments, leisure, and spending time with family and friends.

Thank you for your efforts on the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. We look forward to working with you to advance measures to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Laura Weidner, CCD Chair

Carol Tyson, CCD Vice-Chair