



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

September 22, 2017

The Honorable Gregg Harper
United States House of Representatives
2227 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kathy Castor
United States House of Representatives
2052 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act (H.R. 3759)

Dear Representatives Harper and Castor:

The undersigned members of the Developmental Disabilities, Autism, and Family Support Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) write to express our support for your sponsorship of the bipartisan legislation RAISE Family Caregivers Act. We greatly appreciate your leadership in helping our nation's millions of family caregivers.

CCD is a coalition of national disability-related organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures full equality, self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. Our membership includes organizations that represent individuals with a range of genetic, developmental, and acquired conditions.

Caregiver responsibilities for persons with developmental disabilities are frequently substantial and last for several decades. These family caregivers provide assistance with activities such as eating, bathing, dressing, transportation, managing finances, administering medications, and coordinating care among multiple providers and settings. According to The Arc's Family and Individual Needs for Disability Supports (FINDS) survey, family caregivers often provide more than 40 hours of care per week (including 40% of surveyed family caregivers who provided more than 80 hours of care per week).

The RAISE Family Caregivers Act would implement the federal Commission on Long-Term Care's bipartisan recommendation that Congress require the development of a national strategy to support family caregivers. This strategy will include actions that the federal government, state and local governments, communities, healthcare, long-term services and supports and other providers, employers, and others can take to assist family caregivers.

We also appreciate that the bill provides for an advisory council to help develop the national strategy in an effective way. This council will include representation from diverse stakeholders such as family caregivers, older adults with long-term needs, persons with disabilities, and health care and social service providers, among others.

By supporting our family caregivers, we can help people with developmental disabilities to live at home and avoid unwanted and more costly institutionalization. We look forward to working with you to help pass the RAISE Family Caregivers Act.

Sincerely,

ACCSES

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Network of Community Options and Resources

American Psychological Association

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Autism Society

Family Voices

Lutheran Services in America Disability Network

National Alliance for Caregiving

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services

National Association of State Directors of Special Education

National Disability Rights Network

National Respite Coalition

Parent to Parent USA

The Arc of the United States

United Cerebral Palsy