



September 3, 2014

The Honorable Dave Camp
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1106 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin,

We write as co-chairs of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Social Security Task Force and Financial Security Task Force to express the opposition of our Task Forces to three proposals for financing the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE Act; H.R. 647).

CCD is a working coalition of national consumer, advocacy, provider, and professional organizations working together with and on behalf of the 57 million children and adults with disabilities and their families living in the United States. CCD's Social Security Task Force focuses on disability policy issues in the Title II disability programs and the Title XVI Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. CCD's Financial Security Task Force focuses on the ABLE Act and other issues relevant to financial security for people with disabilities.

It is our understanding that three proposals have recently come under consideration to potentially offset costs of the ABLE Act: a proposal to end the Social Security Administration's (SSA) twenty-state Single Decisionmaker pilot, a proposal to end SSA's ten-state Reconsideration Elimination pilot, and a proposal to remove the existing percentage and dollar caps on the user fee that SSA charges claimants' representatives for processing of representative fee payments, and direct SSA to significantly increase that fee – a provision that has the potential to significantly reduce the pool of qualified and experienced representatives to help claimants navigate the complicated disability determination process.

We are deeply concerned that all three proposals have the potential to significantly delay and reduce access to Social Security Title II disability benefits, SSI, and related health insurance under Medicare and Medicaid for individuals with disabilities who urgently need these vital benefits. We strongly oppose these provisions to finance the ABLE Act. We urge Congress to reject using these proposed pay-fors.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views.

Sincerely,

Marty Ford
The Arc of the United States
Co-Chair, Financial Security Task Force

Susan Goodman
National Down Syndrome Congress
Co-Chair, Financial Security Task Force

Jeanne Morin
National Association of Disability Representatives
Co-Chair, Social Security Task Force

T.J. Sutcliffe
The Arc of the United States
Co-Chair, Social Security Task Force

Tony Young
SourceAmerica
Co-Chair, Financial Security Task Force

Ethel Zelenske
National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives
Co-Chair, Social Security Task Force