



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
1226 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 14, 2015

Dear Representative Becerra:

The undersigned organizations are pleased to provide this letter of endorsement for H.R. 3150, the One Social Security Act. Our organizations are all members of the Social Security Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD). CCD is a coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of the approximately 57 million children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. The CCD Social Security Task Force focuses on disability policy issues in the Title II disability programs and the Title XVI Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) provides vital income support to approximately 9 million workers with disabilities and 2 million of their spouses and dependents. The DI Trust Fund is projected to be depleted at the end of 2016, at which time SSDI beneficiaries face a nearly 20% benefit cut unless action is taken. The undersigned organizations applaud your leadership in introducing H.R. 3150 to ensure that no benefit cut will occur.

We built a Social Security system to provide protections against the loss of wages because of disability, retirement or loss of a spouse or parent. All of the parts of our Social Security system are interrelated and interdependent. Changes to any part of the Social Security system has impacts on the other components of the system. Having one Trust Fund would help ensure that any changes made to any component of the system considers the entire system and strengthens the actuarial soundness and financing of these vital social insurance programs.

American workers pay for Social Security and should be able to have confidence that all benefits under this system will be equally available to them, in the event of a worker's retirement, death, or qualifying disability. The combined Trust Fund created by the One Social Security Act would be fully solvent until 2034, providing this assurance. It would also provide Congress with sufficient time to enact legislation to ensure the long-term actuarial soundness of our entire Social Security system. Congress should act to address Social Security's long-term solvency as soon as possible.

Finally and of critical importance, the One Social Security Act would remove the threat of benefit cuts hanging over the heads of workers with disabilities and their families who rely on SSDI benefits and give Congress the time to thoughtfully enact legislation to strengthen the system and increase the adequacy of these essential benefits for American workers and their families.

Sincerely,

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Council of the Blind
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Health & Disability Advocates
Justice in Aging
Lutheran Services in America Disability Network
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Disability Institute
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Special Needs Alliance
The Arc of the United States
United Cerebral Palsy
United Spinal