



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

October 13, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Shelby, and Chairwoman Lowey:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Financial Security and Poverty Taskforce and Education Taskforce write to thank you for the child nutrition and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provisions included in the recently passed Continuing Appropriations Act of 2021 (H.R. 8337). 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.

We strongly support Congress' recognition of the importance of nutrition assistance for both children and adults with disabilities. CCD previously called for an extension of flexibilities for child nutrition programs and SNAP as the nation continues to grapple with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ We applaud Congress for including provisions in its most recent continuing resolution to extend waivers for the National School Lunch Program ensuring children have access to school meals and allowing states to extend administrative flexibilities for SNAP including extending certification periods, adjusting reporting requirements, simplifying the recertification process, and extending interview flexibilities. We are also pleased to see these provisions authorized through September 30, 2021. Collectively, these provisions will provide ease of access to nutrition programs and help states more easily keep people and families who rely on food assistance in these programs.

¹ CCD Thank You H.R. 7794 and H.R. 7887 (September 2, 2020) <http://www.c-c-d.org/fichiers/Thank-you-HR7794-and-7887.pdf>

As the pandemic continues to run its course, the nutrition provisions included in the continuing resolution come at a particularly critical time for households. Studies suggest that food insecurity remains high since the beginning of the pandemic with 1 in 6 households having reported not being able to afford food when needed.² Additionally, rates of food insecurity for households with children are considerably higher than the rates for households without which is particularly concerning.² Millions of adults and children with disabilities rely on nutrition assistance and the provisions included in the continuing resolution will ensure that they continue to receive this assistance during these unpredictable times.

Again, we applaud Congress for including these important nutrition assistance provisions in this most recent continuing resolution so that all people, including those with disabilities, continue to receive support. Please do not hesitate to contact Cyrus Huncharek (cyrus.huncharek@ndrn.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Autism Society of America
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Center for Public Representation
Council for Learning Disabilities
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)
The Jewish Federations of North America
National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Down Syndrome Congress
The Advocacy Institute
The Arc of the United States

CC: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies

² Hardship and Well-being in the United States after the CARES Act | Poverty Solutions. (2020). Retrieved from <https://poverty.umich.edu/research-publications/policy-briefs/hardship-and-well-being-in-the-united-states-after-the-cares-act/>