



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

February 1, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) and our allies urge you to reject a Congressional Review Act (CRA) disapproval resolution of the 2016 Federal Acquisition Regulation rule designed to reduce employment discrimination against people with disabilities and veterans, including those with service-connected disabilities.

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.

Disapproving this rule would weaken important nondiscrimination and affirmative hiring provisions intended for people with disabilities and veterans. For more than four decades, individuals with disabilities and veterans have been protected by federal laws against discrimination in employment with employers that do business with the federal government. In addition, these landmark laws (Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974) have required large federal contractors to take affirmative action to recruit, hire, promote, and retain these individuals, who traditionally face higher unemployment rates than their peers. The Federal Acquisition Regulation (81 Fed. Reg. 58562) — that is being targeted by this CRA resolution of disapproval — simply ensures that companies that want to do business with the federal government disclose whether they have been in violation of these longstanding requirements.

Please help ensure individuals with disabilities and veterans have a fair shot at employment by voting against the CRA resolution of disapproval of the Federal Acquisition Regulation published at 81 Fed. Reg. 58562.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Association of People with Disabilities
American Foundation for the Blind
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Center for Public Representation
Disability Power & Pride
Easterseals
Goodwill Industries International
Institute for Educational Leadership
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
The National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
Special Needs Alliance
Paralyzed Veterans of America
The Advocat Group
The Arc of the United States
United Cerebral Palsy
United Spinal Association
VetsFirst
Vietnam Veterans of America [VVA]