



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

April 30, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer and Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) and allies write in support of Sen. Smith and Rep. Craig's efforts to provide dependent stimulus payments to adult dependents, many of whom are people with 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.

The CARES Act provided important economic impact payments to people to help them meet their financial obligations during the COVID-19 crisis and provided \$500 dependent credits for qualifying children in recognition of the financial needs of families with dependents.¹ However, while the CARES Act exempts from the full stimulus payments any "individual with respect to whom a deduction under section 151 is allowable to another taxpayer for a taxable year beginning in the calendar year in which the individual's taxable year begins"² it only provides the \$500 dependent credit for children younger than 17.³ This means that college students, adults with disabilities, and others who are dependents under section 151,⁴ but are over the age of 17 neither receive the full \$1200 stimulus payment nor the additional \$500 credit, providing them with no direct financial support during this time.

¹ P.L. 116–136 § 2201(a) (Mar. 27, 2020).

² P.L. 116–136 § 2201(a) (Mar. 27, 2020).

³ P.L. 116–136 § 2201(a) (Mar. 27, 2020); 26 U.S.C § 24(c).

⁴ 26 U.S.C § 151(c). Dependents under this section are defined in 26 U.S.C § 152.

Both Rep. Craig’s “All Dependent Children Count Act” (H.R. 6420), and Sen. Smith’s “All Dependents Count Act,” would make great strides in ensuring that dependents who are currently ineligible for the qualifying dependent stimulus payments of \$500 per dependent authorized by the CARES Act receive those stimulus payments. We support both bills, as we think that any expansion of the dependent credits to those currently excluded will be helpful to people with disabilities and their families. However, it should be noted that Rep. Craig’s bill would expand the \$500 dependent credit to qualifying children as defined in section 152, but not qualifying relatives.⁵ This is an excellent starting point and would certainly provide much needed aid to many who are currently excluded. Sen. Smith’s bill, however, provides the \$500 dependent credit to a broader swath of individuals, ensuring that both qualifying children and qualifying relatives as defined in section 152 will receive the payments.⁶ This broader definition would ensure that people with disabilities who do not reside with their families, but are claimed as dependents would be eligible for the \$500 credit as well and we would encourage the inclusion of these dependent relatives as well.

We would encourage you to consider the inclusion of this important legislative priority in the next coronavirus relief package to ensure that people with disabilities are better financially supported during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please contact Bethany Lilly (lilly@thearc.org) or Erin Shea (eshea@cpr-us.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

ADAPT Montana
AIDS Alabama
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Network Community Options & Resources (ANCOR)
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Association of People Supporting Employment First
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Autism Society of America
Autism Speaks
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
California Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Public Representation
Child Welfare League of America
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Church World Service
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Coalition on Human Needs
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition

⁵ All Dependent Children Count Act, H.R. 6420, 116th Cong. (2020).

⁶ All Dependents Count Act, available at <https://smithsenate.app.box.com/s/golzk0wdj3cwwpkzj0xciiu4osq0ml4>.

CommunicationFIRST
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Designer Genes of North Dakota, Inc.
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)
Diverse Disability Media
Down Syndrome Affiliates in Action
Down Syndrome Alliance of the Midlands
Down Syndrome Association of Connecticut, Inc.
Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte
Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville
Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area
Down Syndrome Foundation of Florida
Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City
Down Syndrome Indiana
Easterseals
Economic Security Project
Epilepsy Foundation
Islamic Relief USA
Justice in Aging
Legal Aid at Work
Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress
Muslim Caucus of America
NAACP
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Council of State Agencies for the Blind
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Down Syndrome Society
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Law Center
Oasis Legal Services
OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates
Paralyzed Veterans of America

RESULTS

Spina Bifida Association

Starkloff Disability Institute

TASH

The Arc of the United States

Union for Reform Judaism

United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries

United Spinal Association

World Institute on Disability