



June 28, 2012  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Donna Meltzer  
CCD Chair  
301 /918-3764

### **HEALTHCARE RULING A VICTORY FOR ALL AMERICANS**

WASHINGTON--The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) announced on Thursday its strong support of the United States Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The ACA will expand access to healthcare for almost 30 million Americans as well as add and strengthen existing protections for consumers in the insurance market. Today's decision to uphold the expansion of healthcare access, including the individual mandate and numerous insurance market reforms underscores the importance of healthcare as a basic human right that impacts the wellbeing of every individual, family budgets, the economy and our values as Americans.

"Today's court decision will ensure that health insurance companies cannot deny coverage based on preexisting conditions or discriminate based on an individual's health status. This is the essence of why the disability community supported the ACA and we are thrilled that the Supreme Court decision protects these reforms that are at the heart of health reform efforts," said Donna Meltzer, CCD Chair.

The Court's decision brings health security to millions of Americans with existing insurance and offers those who are uninsured meaningful access to affordable health care. However, we are concerned about the limits the Court might have placed on the ability for people newly eligible for Medicaid to access the services critical to people with disabilities. We will continue to work to ensure more Americans will have access to quality healthcare and long-term home and community based care through an expansion of the state-run Medicaid system.

Already, more than 3 million young adults under the age of 26 have been covered through insurance market reforms. The ruling reaffirms the importance of access to rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices, mental health and substance disorder services, behavioral health care, preventive and wellness services, chronic disease management and important services for children. We call on Congress to protect these reforms and thwart any efforts to repeal or diminish these rights and protections.

CCD, a coalition of more than 100 national consumer, service provider, and professional organizations, has been advocating on behalf of persons with disabilities and chronic conditions and their families since 1973. CCD has worked to achieve federal legislation and regulations that assure that the 54 million children and adults with disabilities are fully integrated into the mainstream of society.