



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

April 22, 2021

Hon. Cory Booker
Chair
Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism
Senate Judiciary Committee
717 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Tom Cotton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism
Senate Judiciary Committee
124 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Subcommittee on Criminal Justice Hearing on Behavioral Health
and Policing**

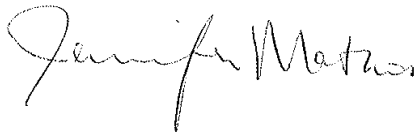
Dear Chair Booker and Ranking Member Cotton:

As co-chairs of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Rights Task Force, we write to applaud you for conducting a hearing on this important topic. 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 negative and often deadly consequences of police interactions with people with disabilities, and particularly Black, Indigenous and People of Color with disabilities, have raised significant concerns in the disability community. We are encouraged to see that the subcommittee is addressing the issue of police responses to individuals with behavioral health needs. We write to share the CCD Rights Task Force's attached [statement of principles](#) concerning police responses to people with disabilities. We note that this statement also conveys support for additional policing reforms including many of those included in the Justice in Policing Act.

Thank you for your attention to these critically important issues.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Mathis
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law



Kelly Buckland
National Council on Independent Living



Stephen Lieberman
United Spinal Association



Samantha Crane
Autistic Self Advocacy Network



Allison Nichol
Epilepsy Foundation

/s/

Molly Burgdorf
The Arc of the United States

Co-chairs, CCD Rights Task Force