



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

**Social Security Task Force
Annual Report for 2014
January 2015**

2014 ACTIVITIES

The Social Security Task Force continued its work on the Social Security and the Supplemental Security Income programs on behalf of people with disabilities. Areas of focus during 2014 included the following:

- **Ensuring that proposed changes to the Social Security and SSI disability programs protect the rights and interests of people with disabilities.**

The Task Force spent much of the year countering attacks on the Social Security disability programs by Congressional committees, media outlets, and other organizations. In response, the Task Force met with key Congressional staffers in the House and Senate and developed a number of fact sheets, response letters, Statements for the Record, and other documents in order to represent our positions. All documents are available on the CCD website. We also worked with other partners and coalitions.

- **Advocating that SSA has adequate resources for its administrative budget.**

Another major issue in 2014 continued to be SSA's need for adequate funding to reduce the disability claims backlog and prevent deterioration of other critical services, primarily caused by the underfunding of SSA for many years. Efforts have already started for the SSA FY 2016 budget as the Task Force was involved in two meetings in late 2014 with OMB.

- **Monitoring proposals to promote employment and advocating to improve disability work incentives.**

The Task Force had a working group whose focus was on developing demonstration proposals for the agency that are consistent with positions taken by the Task Force over the years. A Disability Insurance Demonstrations Principles document was developed, followed by a proposal for a benefit offset in the Title II disability programs. This proposal has been shared with Hill staff and others.

We continue to coordinate efforts with the CCD Employment and Training Task Force.

- **Working to educate the public about the importance of Social Security benefits for people with disabilities and to ensure the solvency of the Social Security Trust Funds.**

We developed responses to the 2014 Social Security Trustees' Report. All documents are available on the CCD website. We also continue to support reallocation in order to maintain the solvency of the Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

- **Monitoring proposals on the SSI program.**

The Task Force continues to work with other disability advocates around the country to address criticisms of the program, usually focusing on the SSI childhood disability program. In addition, we support modernization of antiquated income and resource rules.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Task Force expects to continue to work on all of the issues described above. In particular, we expect the attacks on the disability programs to continue and that Congress may propose "reforms" that will require close scrutiny regarding their impact on people with disabilities. Specifically:

- Monitor proposed changes to the Social Security and SSI disability programs to ensure that the rights of people with disabilities are protected. We will continue to work with Members of Congress, other coalitions, and friendly media outlets, while countering attacks that are detrimental to people with disabilities.
- Continue to work regarding the solvency of the Social Security Trust Funds to ensure that the impact on people with disabilities is considered and their interests are protected.
- Advocate that SSA's administrative budget be adequately funded so that SSA has sufficient resources for personnel and service needs.
- Advocate for legislation, regulations, policy changes, and demonstration pilots to improve, simplify, and update the Social Security and SSI disability programs, including work incentives.
- Continue to work with other CCD Task Forces to monitor proposals to promote employment among disability beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries. In particular, we will seek to influence the development of proposals to ensure that they are directed toward maximizing employment opportunities while also doing no harm to existing critical income supports.
- Monitor the implementation of the disability programs in the Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance program and the SSI program; present testimony as requested to Congress; respond to notices of proposed rulemaking; and raise issues affecting people with disabilities to SSA officials and Congressional staff.

CO-CHAIRS IN 2014:

Jeanne Morin, National Association of Disability Representatives

TJ Sutcliffe, The Arc of the United States

Ethel Zelenske, National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives