



July 16, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2207 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Tom Cole, Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, and Committee Members,

We, the undersigned members of the Autism, Developmental Disabilities, and Family Support Task Force and fellow members of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD), are writing to you today to thank you for removing section 722 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies funding bill. This provision would have prohibited the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from banning devices or their use to the extent that they are authorized or ordered by a court and thus circumvent decades of advocacy against the use of contingent electric shock on 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. CCD members include disability professionals, national organizations, provider associations, self-advocates, and other allies of individuals with disabilities.

As members of the largest coalition of disability rights and justice organizations, ensuring the physical and psychological well-being of people with disabilities is an issue of paramount concern to us. As such, we were deeply alarmed by this provision, which would have served to insulate from FDA oversight and regulation a single facility – the Judge Rotenberg Center (JRC) – that employs painful electric shocks for the alleged purposes of behavior modification in people with disabilities. This provision would have served no purpose other than to shield one facility that designs, manufactures, and uses these devices on disabled people from FDA regulation. This practice is widely disavowed by the medical, behavioral health, disability advocacy, and developmental disability support communities and denounced by the United Nations as a violation of the Convention Against Torture.

Thank you for removing this provision and allowing the FDA to continue finalizing its rule to ban this device without any interference. We appreciate the Members who spoke out against this provision during the markup. The FDA's rule will ensure no one is further subjected to this torturous practice. We ask for your support in continuing to protect individuals with disabilities and others from this and any other inhumane treatment.

Sincerely,

Access Ready Inc.  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Health and Disability  
American Association of People with Disabilities American Association on Intellectual and

Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)  
Amputee Coalition  
Association of Assistive Technology Act Program  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
Autism Society of America  
Autism Speaks  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Center for Public Representation  
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Communication 4 ALL  
CommunicationFIRST  
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates  
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Disability Belongs  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Huntington's Disease Society of America  
Justice in Aging  
Lakeshore Foundation  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Health Law Program  
Respectability  
TASH  
The Arc of the United States  
The Kelsey  
United Spinal  
United States International Council on Disabilities  
World Institute on Disability

*The Consortium for Constituents 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 free from racism, ableism, sexism, and xenophobia, as well as LGBTQ+ based discrimination and religious intolerance.*