



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

October 14, 2005

The Honorable Norm Coleman  
The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Coleman & Leahy:

On behalf of the Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force, we are pleased to offer our strong support for your proposed amendment to the FY 2006 Transportation-Treasury-HUD Appropriations bill (HR 3058). The CCD Housing Task Force is a coalition of national disability organizations including The Arc, United Cerebral Palsy, and National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, National Disability Rights Network, Easter Seals, Paralyzed Veterans of America, United Spinal Association and the Brain Injury Association of America.

The CCD Housing Task Force is particularly grateful for provisions in your amendment that would supplement FY 2006 funding for the Section 8 Housing Certificate Fund. The additional \$200 million for Section 8 is critically needed to ensure that there will be sufficient funds to renew the rental vouchers of the program's current tenants in 2006. More importantly, your amendment ensures that there will be sufficient funding in the Section 8 program to cover the cost of renewing expiring tenant-based subsidies under the Section 811 program.

As you know, the underlying version of HR 3058 reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee in July shifted the cost of renewing expiring Section 811 tenant-based subsidies to the Section 8 account. The CCD Housing Task Force strongly supports this proposal as critical to ensuring the long-term stability of Section 811 as a source of production of new supportive housing units for people with severe disabilities. Providing funding to go with this budgetary shift of the Section 811 tenant-based renewals is a major step forward and the disability community is grateful for your efforts to include this in your amendment.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of people with disabilities. The CCD Housing Task Force urges all Senators to support the Coleman-Leahy Amendment.

Sincerely,

Kathy McGinley  
NDRN

Liz Savage  
The Arc-UCP

Andrew Sperling  
NAMI