



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

October 31, 2011
The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Murray and Representative Hensarling:

We are writing on behalf of the Health and Long-Term Services and Supports Task Forces of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD). As representatives of national disability organizations, we would like to stress the importance of supporting Medicaid, Medicare and the critical provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), as the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction completes its work.

Medicaid is a lifeline for most people with significant disabilities who may have greater medical needs and often require assistance with activities of daily living throughout their lifetimes, such as getting dressed, taking medication, preparing meals, and managing money. Medicaid is overwhelmingly the largest funding source of both acute health care and long term services and supports for most of our constituents since people with disabilities who are covered by Medicaid generally do not have access to employer based or other private coverage.

CCD is gravely concerned about proposals to reduce federal Medicaid spending, to repeal the Medicaid Maintenance of Effort provisions, to block grant the Medicaid program and other proposals such as mandatory managed care for all beneficiaries or beneficiary caps that the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction may be considering during its negotiations. Neither states nor individuals or family members can afford a significant shifting in costs from the federal government to the states and the people receiving Medicaid benefits.

CCD strongly supports Medicaid because of the program's track record of providing cost-effective services and supports to 8 million individuals with disabilities. We oppose any fundamental changes to the program as, with a fixed amount of severely reduced funding, states would then be forced to cut eligibility, benefits, and provider payments. People with disabilities stand to greatly lose access to physicians, medications, therapies, medical equipment, and many other crucial products and services.

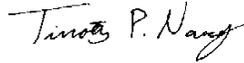
CCD also opposes efforts to defund critical provisions in the ACA in FY 2012 and beyond. The House's draft version of the FY 2012 appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies would rescind over \$8 billion for a number of health care provisions of the ACA. This spending is critical to implementing the Affordable Care Act and achieving the goals of improving public health, expanding access to health care and creating additional long term services and supports options, including implementation of the CLASS program.

CCD will continue to work to ensure that any modifications to the health care program are in the best interest of children and adults with disabilities by expanding access to health care services, public health programs and critical long term services and supports. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Health or Long Term Services and Supports Co-chairs listed below:

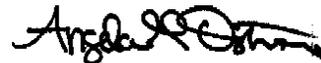
Sincerely,



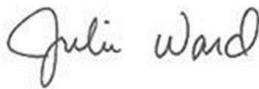
Mary Andrus
Easter Seals
mandrus@easterseals.com



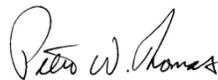
Tim Nanof
American Occupational
Therapy Association
tnanof@aota.org



Angela Ostrom
Epilepsy Foundation
aostrom@efa.org



Julie Ward
The Arc of the US
ward@thearc.org



Peter Thomas
Brain Injury Association
peter.thomas@ppsv.com



Marty Ford
The Arc of the US
ford@thearc.org



Lee Page
Paralyzed Veterans
of America
leep@pva.org



Suellen Galbraith
American Network of
Community Options
and Resources
sgalbraith@ancor.org



Lutheran Services of America
megcooch@lutheranservices.com