



October 14, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the undersigned members and allies of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), we write to urge you to ensure that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's regulation implementing Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is finalized and issued promptly. 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.

Six years ago, you issued Executive Order 13548, on Increasing Federal Employment of Individuals with Disabilities. That critically important Executive Order requires that as the nation's largest employer, the Federal government take concrete steps to become a model for the employment of individuals with disabilities. Thanks to your leadership and the commitment of Federal officials throughout the country, we have seen a substantial improvement in the hiring and retention of people with disabilities in the Federal government. We applaud these efforts.

And yet, the work is not done. The 501 regulation is essential to ensure that the recruitment and retention strategies required by the Executive Order do not vanish but are incorporated into law for the foreseeable future. The rule making process has been in process for several years now - the ANPRM was issued back in May 2014 - and this Administration is nearly over. Indeed, the White House promised action on this rule during the 25th anniversary of the ADA.

We are very concerned that this regulation, which is one of the most important legacies of your Administration's commitment to advancing opportunities for people with disabilities, may not be finalized before the end of your Administration and may be in jeopardy if prompt action is not taken to finalize it.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Murray at the American Association of People with Disabilities (mmurray@aapd.com, (202) 521-4302), Jennifer Mathis at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law (jenniferm@bazelon.org, 202-467-5730 ext. 1313), or Kelly Buckland at the National Council on Independent Living (kelly@ncil.org, 202-207-0334 ext. 1104).

Sincerely,

ACCSES

The Advocacy Institute

American Association of People with Disabilities

American Association on Health and Disability

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

American Council of the Blind

American Counseling Association

American Foundation for the Blind

American Network of Community Options and Resources

The Arc of the United States

Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

Brain Injury Association of America

Center for Public Representation

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

Easterseals

Epilepsy Foundation

Institute for Educational Leadership

Justice in Aging

Mental Health America

National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Institute
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Parent to Parent USA
SourceAmerica
TASH
United Cerebral Palsy
United Spinal Association

Allies of CCD:

AARP
Access Living
ADAPT of Texas
The Advocat Group
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living
Disability Law Center of Massachusetts
Disability Law Center of Utah
Disability Power and Pride
Disability Rights California
Disability Rights Center
Disability Rights New York
Disability Rights North Carolina

District of Columbia Advocacy Partners
ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia
Lakeshore Foundation
Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service
National Association of Rights Protection and Advocacy
National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery
National Organization of Nurses with Disabilities
New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
Office of Protection and Advocacy (Connecticut)
Personal Attendants Coalition of Texas (PACT)
The Viscardi Center

cc: Valerie Jarrett
Cecilia Munoz
Shaun Donovan
Howard Shelanski