



CCD Response to the President's FY 2014 Budget Request

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Washington, DC.) April 12, 2013 -- "The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) is encouraged that the Administration's Budget for FY 2014 maintains investments in many important programs that support the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities, cancels the devastating sequestration, preserves the structure of Medicaid, and recognizes the need for a balanced approach in dealing with deficit reduction while making important investments in early childhood and health care," stated Katy Neas, CCD Chair. "However, CCD is concerned that too many cuts are proposed to programs that support our most vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities."

The President's budget calls for cuts to both Medicare and Social Security that place too many elderly and people with disabilities at risk of losing valuable services and devices. Shifting costs to Medicare beneficiaries in the form of higher deductibles, additional copayments and eliminating first dollar coverage under Medigap plans will impose barriers to services for people who have chronic conditions and disabilities. In addition, we need to protect access to inpatient and outpatient rehabilitative services and devices for those with intensive needs under Medicare.

While the Administration's budget proposal includes provisions intended to soften the impact of the change in the way the cost-of-living increase is calculated (chained CPI), the fact that so many protections are being considered highlights the reality that the chained CPI is not the right policy for Social Security. The proposed protections are well-meaning, but inadequate to address the needs of extremely vulnerable beneficiaries.

CCD is also concerned about some of the cuts to housing and employment programs that run counter to all the efforts of the Administration to assist states in implementing the Supreme Court's *Olmstead* integration mandate. For example, while CCD is encouraged that the Budget

provides \$3.7 billion for vocational rehabilitation and independent living services, we are disappointed that the proposal would consolidate funding for supported employment states grants. Many states rely on these grants to provide ongoing supports for people with the most significant disabilities.

In addition, the President’s proposal makes dramatic cuts to the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities. The number of housing units funded drops from over 3,500 in FY 2012 to just 700 nationwide in FY 2014.

“CCD will work with Congress to restore cuts to vital services and supports and to build on investments for improving the lives of people with disabilities,” said Katy Neas, CCD Chair. Our grassroots networks are acutely aware that discretionary programs did not cause this deficit nor will cutting these programs achieve the aim of deficit reduction. Now that the House, Senate and White House have released budgets, we will mobilize to protect vital programs in the Budget and Appropriations process”

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The [Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities](#) is a coalition of over 100 national consumer, provider, and advocacy organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of the 54 million children and adults with disabilities living in the United States.

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