



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Statement from the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Board of Directors

We are deeply dismayed by Wednesday's violent takeover of the United States Capitol by white supremacist rioters in an attempt to disenfranchise voters' selection of President-Elect Biden and Vice-President Elect Harris to lead our nation. As a coalition focused on protecting and promoting the civil rights of all people with disabilities, we advocate in those very halls to ensure that people with disabilities have the freedom and opportunity to exercise individual decisions concerning their own lives, welfare, and personal dignity, including the right to cast their ballots and have those ballots counted. Efforts to subvert the election results are completely unacceptable. The response to the riot, which stood in stark contrast to recent responses to racial justice protests and symbols used by rioters - including the confederate flag and nooses on the Capitol lawn - exemplify our nation's racism and we urge that the rioters be held accountable for their actions to the full extent of the law. Our thoughts are with the members of Congress, their staff, and Capitol staff who were in danger.

American democracy and congressional action are especially needed as we face grave risks due to the ongoing pandemic, which presents unique risks for people with disabilities, particularly those who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color. The burgeoning economic crisis, and ongoing racial injustice also require immediate congressional action. We look forward to working with the 117th Congress and the incoming Administration to make meaningful progress in responding to these crises.