



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

March 10, 2015

Dear Senator:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) urge you to adhere to the attached principles as you make decisions about the 2016 budget resolution. We strongly urge lawmakers to replace sequestration with a balanced approach to deficit reduction and thereby avoid irreparable harm to people with disabilities. In doing so, we ask that you consider the following.

CCD believes that:

- The budget should be balanced without detriment to people with disabilities, for whom government services and supports are vital to their ability to remain healthy, employed, educated and independent in their communities.
- Any modifications to entitlement programs on which people with disabilities depend for their health, long-term supports and income security as their lifeline, such as Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income and veterans disability compensation and pension benefits, must not result in reduced access to needed services either directly, through eligibility restrictions or benefit cuts, or indirectly, through inadequate provider reimbursement rates.
- Deficit reduction strategies must reflect a thoughtful, balanced approach and include all aspects of the federal budget in order to protect people with disabilities. Any plan must include an analysis of how it will impact people with disabilities of all ages and other vulnerable populations.

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a broad coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the education, self determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

We look forward to working with you through the process ahead and appreciate your attention to our concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Foundation for the Blind  
American Network of Community Options and Resources  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Autism National Committee  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Council for Exceptional Children  
Council for Learning Disabilities  
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Disability Rights Legal Center  
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children  
Health & Disability Advocates  
Easter Seals  
Family Voices  
IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association  
Institute for Educational Leadership  
Justice in Aging  
Lutheran Services in America Disability Network  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys  
National Alliance for Caregiving  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of State Directors of Special Education  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare  
National Council for Behavioral Health  
National Council on Aging  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives  
National Respite Coalition  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Perkins

Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America  
Special Needs Alliance  
TASH  
The Advocacy Institute  
The Arc  
United Cerebral Palsy  
United Spinal Association