



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

January 13, 2021

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Chair Shelby, and Chair DeLauro:

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Financial Security and Poverty Taskforce writes to thank you for the beneficial nutrition provisions included in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 passed and signed into law in the 116th Congress. We also write to express our disappointment that once again adult dependents were excluded from economic impact payments in this package. 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.

We thank you for the provisions increasing the monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) maximum benefit level by 15%, exclusion of Pandemic Unemployment Compensation from being counted toward household income for SNAP, and the \$5 million for technical support to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in expanding the SNAP online purchasing program. Our taskforce has long advocated for these provisions as they will greatly benefit those who utilize nutrition assistance, including those with disabilities.

As the pandemic continues to run its course, the nutrition provisions included in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 come at a particularly critical time as households still struggle to get enough food. Millions of adults and children with disabilities rely on nutrition assistance and these provisions will ensure assistance and access is increased. Additionally, we plan to follow up with the

incoming Administration's leadership at USDA regarding the \$5 million for technical support in expanding the SNAP online purchasing program.

Despite bipartisan support¹ for their inclusion, adults with disabilities claimed as dependents were not eligible for economic impact payments again. Millions of family caregivers provide long-term services and supports to their family members with disabilities or who are older adults, permitting individuals of all ages to remain in their homes and communities and help to avoid or delay more costly institutional services. These families have not received direct financial support to help their family members since the beginning of the pandemic and adult dependents **must** be included in the next COVID-19 relief bill.

Again, we applaud Congress for including important nutrition assistance provisions in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 so that all people, including those with disabilities, continue to receive support. At the same time, we strongly urge you to ensure that adult dependents are eligible for direct financial support in the next COVID-19 relief bill. Please do not hesitate to contact Cyrus Huncharek (cyrus.huncharek@ndrn.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

CCD Financial Security and Poverty Taskforce Co-chairs

Cyrus Huncharek
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

Aaron Kaufman
The Jewish Federations of North America

Bethany Lilly
The Arc of the United States

Heather Sachs
National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC)

CC:

Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies

Senate Finance Committee

House Ways and Means Committee

¹ <http://c-c-d.org/fichiers/Grassley-Thank-You.pdf>