February 14, 2022

Chairman Patrick Leahy  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro  
House Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Vice-Chairman Richard Shelby  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Kay Granger  
House Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Shelby and Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

As we get closer to the deadline for the current continuing resolution (CR), the undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) strongly urge you to pass the twelve appropriations bills for the Fiscal Year 2022 and avoid any further delays. A year-long CR at FY 2021 levels would have significant impacts on the lives of people with disabilities and their families and would be troubling for many people with disabilities and the programs and projects that support them.

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 free from racism, ableism, sexism, and xenophobia, as well as LGBTQ+ based discrimination and religious intolerance.

The annual appropriations bills provide urgently needed increases for funding that impact people with disabilities and their families. People with disabilities and their families depend on these programs and projects for critical supports and services including necessary health care, employment supports, transportation, and education and related services. Given the current pandemic, efforts by programs funded by the federal government are critical to keeping people safe, healthy, employed, or in school. Additionally, programs that support heating assistance, food delivery, and other assistance to get through this pandemic are needed.

Congress has an important job to do – pass appropriations bills that support people. We urge Congress to get the job done and help millions of people, including the 64 million Americans who live with disabilities, have access to programs that support them to live their best life. All people deserve to have congressionally funded programs that will help them to live full and meaningful lives in the community.
Please reach out to the CCD Fiscal Policy Task Force co-chairs with any questions:

Donna Meltzer, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, dmeltzer@nacdd.org
Kim Musheno, Autism Society of America, kmusheno@autism-society.org
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Undersigned Members of CCD

Advocacy Institute
ALS Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association on Health and Disability
American Council of the Blind
American Foundation for the Blind
American Network of Community Options and Resources
American Printing House
American Psychological Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Assistive Technology Industry Association
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Autism Society of America
Autism Speaks
Brain Injury Association of America
Caring Across Generations
Center for Medicare Advocacy
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
CommunicationFIRST
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
Council for Learning Disabilities
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
CSAVR
Disability Rights and Education Fund
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)
Division for Learning Disabilities (DLD) of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
Epilepsy Foundation
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education (HECSE)
IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)
Justice in Aging
Learning Disabilities Association
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE)
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Respite Coalition
National Organization of Social Security Claimants’ Representatives (NOSSCR)
National Parent Teacher Association
Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies
RespectAbility
TASH
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children (TED)
The Arc of the United States
The Kelsey
United Cerebral Palsy