



March 10, 2008

Dear Chairman Spratt:
The Honorable John M. Spratt, Jr.
Chairman
House Budget Committee
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt:

On behalf of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Fiscal Policy Task Force, we are writing to express our strong support for the FY 2009 Budget Resolution that was recently reported out of committee. The measure allows for important discretionary spending increases for critical research, training, education, housing and community-based services and supports that are necessary in helping people with disabilities remain healthy, obtain and retain employment and to be able to live independently in the community.

Furthermore, it rejects the Bush Administration's proposed cuts that would affect a wide range of services and supports to people with disabilities, including deep cuts to the Medicaid and Medicare programs; a six percent cut to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as a 16 percent cut to the Health Resource and Services Administration. For Social Security LAE (Limitation on Administrative Expenses), we are very encouraged by the full cap adjustment of \$240 million above the President's request of \$10.327 billion. This funding is critical to address the growing backlogs in initial and hearing decisions on disability claims. In addition, the House leadership proposal provides sufficient funding to allow increases for the National Institutes on Health that provides critical research into the causes, prevention, and quality of life issues for people with disabilities.

In February, we wrote to urge the Committee and the House Leadership to reject the Administration's budget cuts and to provide sufficient funds for programs that enable people with disabilities to learn, work, pay taxes, live in their communities, and make significant contributions to our society. The FY 2009 House Budget Resolution is fiscally responsible and represents a positive alternative to the Administration's priorities. Therefore, CCD strongly supports the legislation and we stand ready to assist you in passing this critically important measure.

For further information, please contact any of the individuals listed below.

CCD Fiscal Policy Co-Chairs:

Donna Meltzer, Epilepsy Foundation

301.459-3700 dmeltzer@efa.org

Kim Musheno, Association of University Centers on Disabilities

301.588-8252 kmusheno@aucd.org

Jennifer Dexter, Easter Seals

202-347-3066 jdexter@easterseals.com