



Commemorating 40 Years Of Disability Advocacy 1973-2013

October 11, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader, United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Speaker Boehner, Representative Pelosi, Leader Reid, and Senator McConnell:

On behalf of Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Fiscal Policy Task Force, we urge you to act swiftly to reopen the federal government and raise the debt ceiling. CCD is a coalition of more than 100 national disability organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. We believe that Congress should pass a clean, short-term continuing resolution (CR), as well as provisions to raise the debt ceiling allowing the federal government to reopen while also funding commitments already incurred by the U.S. Congress.

A Congressional vote on the CR and debt ceiling should *not* include unrelated policy riders. Most importantly, these votes should not be accompanied by legislation that would worsen the already fragile economic status of people with disabilities and their families or undermine health care reform. We strongly oppose any deal that would decrease access to services and supports for people with disabilities in Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security.

To further ensure our nation's long-term fiscal stability, we urge Congress to follow the resolution of the debt ceiling with a measure to replace the sequester. Sequestration's current and looming cuts threaten the sustainability of cost-effective programs that are essential to the health and well-being of people with disabilities.

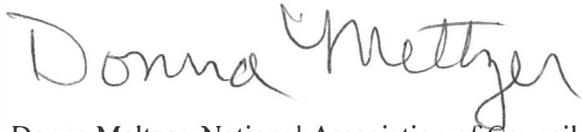
The following principles should be reflected in any final agreement:

- People with disabilities must not be harmed;
- Effective and needed services and supports for people with disabilities must be adequately funded and the sequester must end;
- Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security must continue to provide a strong safety net for people with disabilities; and,
- The Affordable Care Act (ACA) must be preserved.

In conclusion, CCD urges Congress to act swiftly and responsibly to reopen the federal government, raise the debt ceiling and end the sequester. Ensuring the health and economic security of people with disabilities and their families is dependent upon access to needed government services and a steadily recovering U.S. economy.

Thank you.

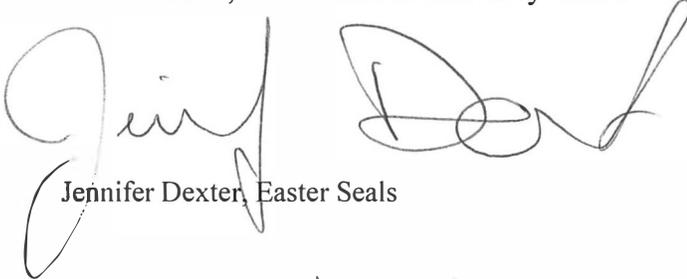
Sincerely,



Donna Meltzer, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)



Kim Musheno, Association of University Centers on Disability



Jennifer Dexter, Easter Seals



Julio Abreu, Mental Health America



Annie Acosta, The Arc