



Commemorating 40 Years  
Of Disability Advocacy  
1973-2013

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### **Pass the Bipartisan Budget Agreement and Protect People with Disabilities**

*Washington, DC December 12, 2013* – The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities’ (CCD) Fiscal Policy Task Force urges members of Congress to support the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (BBA). This compromise, negotiated by Senate Budget Chairman Patty Murray and House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan, represents a step in the right direction. It is designed to restore order to the federal budget and appropriations process, and will allow for the preservation of much needed programs for people with disabilities. A functioning, effective federal government is critical to people with disabilities who disproportionately rely on government services to live, learn and work in their communities.

We commend the negotiators for reaching a deal that provides partial relief from sequestration and does not include damaging cuts to mandatory programs such as Medicaid and Social Security. However we are concerned that changes to how states can recoup Medicaid costs from beneficiary-liability settlements and the extension of Medicare provider rate cuts from sequester might negatively affect people with disabilities. While the overall funding levels for non-defense discretionary programs in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 under the agreement are still lower than those in FY 2010 and programs supporting people with disabilities are still underfunded, the stability the agreement provides is welcome. The bill provides certainty for FY 2014 and FY 2015 and paves the way for passage of appropriations bills through regular order. Once regular order has been restored, we ask Congress and the Administration to work together to ensure that there is adequate funding for critical safety net programs, relief is provided to the long term unemployed and a permanent solution to the problems created by sequestration is found.

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.

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