



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

President's FY 2019 American Budget is an Un-American Attack on People with Disabilities

Washington DC, February 13, 2018 - The Co-Chairs of the Fiscal Policy Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), a national coalition of more than 100 national disability organizations, is once again deeply troubled by the vision that the Administration has laid out for Americans with disabilities. "An American Budget" deeply cuts programs that support the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities. It justifies these extreme cuts as necessary measures to reign in deficits, a concern that was not the least bit in evidence when the tax law - that will increase deficits substantially and primarily benefit the most prosperous segment of society - was enacted less than two months ago:

Medicaid. The President's Budget would drastically cut Medicaid funding through per capita cap and block grants and it assumes repeal of critical provisions such as the requirements for adequate benefits and affordable health plans that protect people with pre-existing conditions.

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The President's Budget would [cut roughly \\$70 billion over 10 years](#) out of Social Security's disability programs, including SSI.

Developmental Disabilities (DD) Act Programs. The President's Budget provides double digit cuts to three of the four DD Act programs - State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (-23%), University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (-13%), and Projects of National Significance (-90%).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP). The President's Budget cuts food assistance under SNAP by more than \$213 billion over 10 years, a reduction of 30%.

Social Services. The President's Budget eliminates the Social Services Block Grant, a flexible source of funds used by states to help prevent abuse and neglect, provide family supports, and prevent the institutionalization of persons with disabilities, among other things.

Public Health. Though the Administration proposes to substantially increase funding to address the opioid epidemic, much of this increase in the President's Budget comes from significant cuts

to existing programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Housing. The President's budget cuts \$6.8 billion from affordable housing programs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including major cuts in housing choice vouchers, public housing, and other vital programs for people with disabilities.

In addition, the President's Budget includes other proposals that purport to be beneficial, but in reality, there is ample evidence of their significant limitations and/or actual harm.

Work Requirements. As members of CCD detailed in a [February 7, 2018 letter](#), Medicaid work requirements will result in hundreds of thousands of low-income Americans, including people with disabilities, losing access to Medicaid services.

School Choice. The President's Budget proposes a \$1.1 billion "down payment" towards a \$20 billion federal investment in for school choice programs. Such initiatives are purportedly for giving more decision-making power to parents and families. However, only private schools - that do not have to accept nor appropriately serve students with disabilities - would actually be given such power.

Paid Family Leave. The President's Budget proposes a new paid family leave program. However, this proposal burdens underfunded state unemployment insurance systems and offers a very time limited benefit (6 weeks) for a single circumstance (birth/adoption) that would do little to meet the needs of the vast majority of persons with disabilities.

"We are deeply disappointed that the President, once again, goes against campaign promises to protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid," stated Kim Musheno, CCD Chair. "Instead, this plan would reverse decades of progress for our citizens with disabilities by making deep cuts to the very programs that have made it possible for people with disabilities to get jobs, live in the community, and stay out of more expensive and unchosen institutional settings."

"CCD urges Congress to reject the President's Budget for what it is, a transparent assault on people with disabilities and other low-income Americans that comes on the heels of one of the largest tax cuts for the wealthiest individuals and large corporations."

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. For more information visit www.c-c-d.org or contact Annie Acosta, 202-783-2229 or acosta@thearc.org; Lisa Ekman, 202-550-9996 or Lisa.Ekman@nosscr.org; Kim Musheno, 301-657-0881 or kmusheno@autism-society.org; Donna Meltzer, 202-506-5813 or dmeltzer@nacdd.org

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