



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Autism Task Force Annual Report for 2010

2010 ACTIVITIES

The CCD Autism Task Force met on an ad hoc basis. The task force's primary agenda was to develop revisions to the Combating Autism Act. On December 17, Senators Chris Dodd (D-CT) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ) introduced the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act (S. 4044). The bill would reauthorize the 2006 law (PL 109-419) and add several new provisions that focus on services for children, youth, and adults. The bill also repeals the sunset provisions that would end the newly authorized programs by September of 2011.

The Task Force also supported Representative Mike Doyle's efforts on training of personnel. The Training and Research for Autism Improvement Nationwide Act (H.R. 5756), introduced by Doyle and Rep. Smith (R-NJ) passed the House of Representatives on September 23. The TRAIN Act creates training initiatives and authorizes grants for interdisciplinary training, continuing education, technical assistance, and information in order to improve services to children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities and their families, as well as to address the existing unmet needs related to individuals on the autism spectrum. Although the bipartisan TRAIN Act was passed by the House, the Senate did not act on it this Congress.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Task Force will continue to work toward the reauthorization of the Combating Autism Act and on legislation to increase the availability of services and supports for children and adults with autism.

CO-CHAIRS IN 2010:

Kim Musheno, Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Katy Beh Neas, Easter Seals

January 12, 2011