



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES

## **FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND PREVENTION OF DISABILITY**

A forum was held by the AFL-CIO on the status of the macro-economy. A presentation was made by a world renowned economist on the consequences of the economic meltdown of 2008 and 2009. A question and answer session follow the presentation.

### **Summary**

The recession of 2008 and 2009 can have an adverse impact on the health and well-being of vulnerable populations. The forum raised questions on the validity of free financial markets on social integrity. Information was provided that the financial industry fails to operate on principles of the free market. Markets are not effective unless investors have all relevant and valid information. Markets cannot also function when there is wide spread fraud which has been the case. Another factor that skew markets is the "To big to fail" concept.

The financial industry has a considerable impact on government policy. There are four lobbyists from the financial industry for every congressman and lobby interests for the financial industry has yielded positive outcomes from the past three administrations. There is information that the people responsible for the financial meltdown and economic recession are still operative on "Wall Street".

### **Disability Prevention Issue**

Economic downturns disproportionately adversely affect vulnerable populations. The downturns place additional mental stress on families from which many person do not recover. In addition, deteriorating economic conditions exacerbate conditions of inadequate nutrition, unhealthy housing conditions and reduction of human services designed to prevent diminished health that contribute to disability

### **Activity**

The relationship between the proper activity of the financial industry and diminished health of vulnerable populations that can contribute to disability is under study

### **Principle**

Vulnerable populations should be protected with a safety net under which no American should be required to live in order to whether economic downturns.