



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

**INADEQUATE FISCAL RESOURCES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION CAN CONTRIBUTE  
TO DISABILITY AND SECONDARY DISABLING CONDITIONS**

A forum was held to study the effects of the budget on programs of Special Education. The focus of the forum was the impact budgets at the federal and state levels have on services for Special Education professionals and students.

**Summary**

There is increased strain on professionals who serve students with disabilities and students themselves. There are increases in caseloads and class sizes of students with disabilities. In addition, there have been cuts in funds for special education programs that affect instructional and assistive technologies, teacher aids and other paraprofessionals. Fiscal conditions are prompting lay offs, hiring freezes, unfilled vacancies and furloughs in districts across the country. The U.S. Department of Education receives 1.32% of the federal budget. During a prior period, the federal government was to pay 40% of the average per pupil expenditure. It now pays 17.2%

**Disability Prevention Issues**

Inadequate fiscal resources of programs for special education students may lessen opportunities for social, physical and cognitive development. There are social determinants of health which are a part of special education services. Failure of special education student to access these services do to fiscal constraints may contribute to maldevelopment and diminished health. For instance, special education students are disproportionately overweight and obese when compared to normal groups of children of comparable age. Thus, they are in jeopardy of a host of chronic health conditions in later life that may lead to secondary disabling conditions. In addition, related services such as physical, occupational and speech therapy may be adversely affected and contribute to diminished health and disability.

**Activity,**

There is ongoing activity to advocate for improved health of special education students as a result of their education.

**Principle**

Fiscal resources should be available to provide adequate physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of special education students.