



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

PRIORITY POLICY ISSUES AND DISABILITY PREVENTION

The process used to prioritize today's public policy issues is leaving average Americans and vulnerable populations behind.

A session was held on policy changes for the 111th Congress. Persons in attendance were leadership and members of religious, civil rights and anti-poverty groups.

Summary

People in the U.S. are troubled by the nation's adverse domestic conditions. Stagnant incomes are not keeping pace with the rising costs of health care and energy. In addition, people are having problems paying their mortgages and purchasing other essentials. There are concerns that the inappropriate prioritization of military interventions and unmet domestic needs is weakening the middle class and average people are forgotten.

Disability Prevention

There was no mention in the strategy of assistance for vulnerable populations such as persons with disabilities (54 million), the 40 million persons who live in poverty and the 50 million people in America who are food insecure. Vulnerable populations have disproportionately had their health diminished that can lead to disability. Over 100 federal public health programs have lost 5% to 35% of their value over the last 5 years, and the U.S. is now 46th in the world in life longevity and 37th in quality life years.

There is a need for a long-term effort to refocus the debate to population-based health by addressing social determinants that prevent diminished health and disability. This involves a long-term effort to focus the public policy debate in terms of the human needs of vulnerable Americans.

Activity

A letter was sent to the leader of the event concerning diminished health of vulnerable populations that may lead to disability.

Principle

There is need for long-term public policies to refocus legislative debates to population-based health that address social determinants that prevent diminished health and disability.