



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

1660 L Street, NW, Ste. 700
Washington, DC 20036
www.c-c-d.org

Task Force on Work Incentives Implementation

Co-chairs: Cheryl Bates-Harris, NDRN – 202-408-9514
Andrea Harles, INABIR – 202-543-6353
Susan Prokop, PVA – 202-416-7707

August 3, 2005

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Bldg. – Rm. 703
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bingaman:

We, the undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Task Force on Work Incentives Implementation, applaud your introduction of S. 1217, Ending the Medicare Disability Waiting Period Act. As you know, CCD is a coalition of over 100 national disability advocacy and service organizations based in Washington whose work is done through a variety of task forces. The Work Incentives Implementation Task Force was created after the enactment of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TTWWIIA) to monitor the law's implementation.

TTWWIIA's objective is to remove many of the barriers to work that confront individuals on Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Access to affordable health care coverage has been a significant impediment for many individuals with disabilities who want to work. Although TTWWIIA extended Medicare coverage for SSDI beneficiaries who go to work, it did nothing to address the lack of coverage these beneficiaries must endure for 24 months after going on benefits. By the time they finally receive Medicare, they may be too ill to return to work. By assuring SSDI beneficiaries immediate coverage under Medicare, your legislation will give them the confidence to explore work opportunities wherever their interests and abilities lead them.

Thank you for introducing S. 1217. We look forward to working with you on behalf of its passage.

Easter Seals
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
National Disability Rights Network
National Organization of Social Security
Claimants Representatives
NISH

Paralyzed Veterans of America
The Arc of the United States
The Brain Injury Association of America
Title II Community AIDS National Network
United Cerebral Palsy



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August 3, 2005

The Honorable Mike DeWine
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Bldg. – Rm. 140
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator DeWine:

We, the undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Task Force on Work Incentives Implementation, applaud your introduction of S. 1217, Ending the Medicare Disability Waiting Period Act. As you know, CCD is a coalition of over 100 national disability advocacy and service organizations based in Washington whose work is done through a variety of task forces. The Work Incentives Implementation Task Force was created after the enactment of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TTWWIIA) to monitor the law's implementation.

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August 3, 2005

The Honorable Gene Green
U. S. House of Representatives
Cannon House Office Bldg. – Rm. 115
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Green:

We, the undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Task Force on Work Incentives Implementation, applaud your introduction of HR 2869, Ending the Medicare Disability Waiting Period Act. As you know, CCD is a coalition of over 100 national disability advocacy and service organizations based in Washington whose work is done through a variety of task forces. The Work Incentives Implementation Task Force was created after the enactment of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TTWWIIA) to monitor the law's implementation.

TTWWIIA's objective is to remove many of the barriers to work that confront individuals on Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Access to affordable health care coverage has been a significant impediment for many individuals with disabilities who want to work. Although TTWWIIA extended Medicare coverage for SSDI beneficiaries who go to work, it did nothing to address the lack of coverage these beneficiaries must endure for 24 months after going on benefits. By the time they finally receive Medicare, they may be too ill to return to work. By assuring SSDI beneficiaries immediate coverage under Medicare, your legislation will give them the confidence to explore work opportunities wherever their interests and abilities lead them.

Thank you for introducing HR 2869. We look forward to working with you on behalf of its passage.

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