



**Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Reacts to Fiscal Cliff Deal  
While Pleased with Step Forward, Serious Concerns Remain for Near Future**

January 3, 2013, Washington, DC -- The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) applauds Congress for taking important steps to pass the Tax Payer Relief Act thus avoiding grave issues of tax increases on the middle class and spending cuts that would come through the sequestration process. However, the CCD recognizes that the bill, passed well beyond the deadline, is far from ideal and sets up a situation that holds great risk for people with disabilities.

“We are pleased that major consequences related to going over the cliff have not been imposed at this time,” said Donna Meltzer, CCD Chair, “But a great battle still lies ahead in March when most of these issues, including annual appropriations and funding for critical entitlement programs that support people living with disabilities will need to be addressed. Kicking the can down the road only delays the possibility of imposing devastating cuts to critical health, education, employment, housing and other key programs that constitute the safety net of supports for people with disabilities and their families. In addition, the new commission on long-term services and supports will be issuing their important report at about the same time.”

As a new Congress officially begins work today, CCD pledges to educate and inform new and seasoned Members of Congress regarding the needs of people with disabilities who live in their districts and hope to work together to protect all Americans, including those with disabilities from across the board cuts facing the nation come March 1.

The CCD is pleased that a proposal for changing the way Social Security benefits are calculated, known as a chained CPI or Consumer Price Index, that would have impacted the ability of millions of people with disabilities to be independent, was eliminated in this piece of legislation. However, we are disappointed that the final legislation does include a repeal of the CLASS Act, a part of the Affordable Care Act that was written to address access to costly long term services and supports and was widely viewed as an opportunity to alleviate some of the burden on the Medicaid program. A Commission has been established though to consider and address the issue. CCD is the nation’s only coalition of national disability organizations advocating for the rights of people with disabilities and their families.

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