



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

CCD urges Congress to Reject the House Budget

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Washington, DC March 17, 2015 – The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), a national coalition of more than 100 organizations representing the needs of people with disabilities, opposes the budget resolution proposed by House Budget Committee Chairman Tom Price, M.D. (R-GA) because it calls for deep cuts to Medicaid, deep spending cuts for non-defense discretionary programs that support the health and well-being of people with disabilities, and would lead to tens of millions of Americans losing their health insurance or becoming underinsured.

“The programs that would be cut by Chairman Price’s budget make up the safety net for people with disabilities,” said Katy Neas, CCD Chair. “CCD urges Congress to reject the budget and work across the political aisle on solutions that will strengthen our national economy.”

The budget introduced yesterday would block grant Medicaid and cut Medicaid spending by \$913 billion over the next 10 years. A cut this deep would leave many without health care, cost-effective screenings, and treatment. With half of Medicaid’s recipients being children, many of whom have disabilities, this means that millions of children will be denied preventative care and treatment. Medicaid is also a critical lifeline for adults with disabilities – financing long-term supports and services. Cuts of this magnitude in Medicaid will prevent people with the most severe disabilities from living in the community and avoiding costly institutionalization. This change as well as the structural changes to Medicare will result in shifting costs to states and to individual consumers. This will put a huge burden on already strained state budgets and will lead to further cuts to human service programs.

The budget also proposes targeted cuts to Social Security benefits for people with disabilities-- eliminating concurrent Social Security disability benefits for beneficiaries who are attempting to work but have lost a job through no fault of their own and as a result, qualify for Unemployment Insurance. It also prohibits short-term common sense solutions that have been used in the past to support the Social Security Disability Insurance trust fund while longer term solutions are found. These cuts could significantly erode the economic security and well-being of people with disabilities.

Slashing of non-defense discretionary spending -- which funds everything from veteran’s services to medical and scientific research, highways, education, housing, transportation and more -- will deeply affect people with disabilities. Under the House budget proposal, many more people with and without disabilities will be in dire straits losing access to both physical and mental health care. Veterans would not benefit from critical employment services, people with disabilities and elders will lose access to community-based services and supports enabling them to stay out of costly institutions, and children will not have access to supports and services in schools. This is not the America that CCD envisions for anyone. We therefore respectfully urge Congress to reject this budget.

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a broad coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the education, self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.