



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Ryan Budget Dangerous for People with Disabilities: CCD urges Congress to Reject the Ryan Budget

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Washington, DC March 21, 2012 – The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), a national coalition of 113 organizations representing the needs of people with disabilities, believes that the budget resolution proposed by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) is dangerous for people with disabilities as it calls for deep cuts to Medicaid, deeply cuts spending 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 become underinsured.

“The programs that would be cut under this bill make up the safety net of programs that people with disabilities of all ages depend upon,” said Donna Meltzer, CCD Chairperson. “This Budget Resolution flies in the face of the Budget Control Act of last August which was carefully negotiated and set already tough spending caps on both defense and non-defense programs. This budget goes much deeper than those caps. CCD urges a more balanced approach to deficit reduction.”

The Budget introduced this week would block grant Medicaid and cut Medicaid spending by \$810 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 care and preventative treatment. 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 slashing of non-defense discretionary spending, which funds everything from veteran’s health care to medical and scientific research, highways, education, housing, transportation and more will deeply affect people with disabilities. The bill calls for cuts of \$800 billion below the level to which funding would fall if sequestration occurred every year through 2021 according to CCD-member organization Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP). According to the Congressional Budget Office, (CBO) spending would fall to 16 percent of GDP by 2050 under Ryan’s budget. In order to achieve this spending level, almost all federal spending except for defense, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP, and interest on the debt, will be eliminated.

Chairman Ryan says that these cuts to programs are necessary due to the nation’s severe fiscal situation. However, these cuts, and in some cases even wholesale elimination of programs, would surely be worse. Under Chairman Ryan’s budget many more people with and without disabilities will be in dire straits losing access to

both physical and mental health care that is urgently needed, veterans would not benefit from critical health and employment services, and children will not have access to supports and services in the education arena. 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

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