

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

Thank you for your hard work in crafting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill. As you develop this year's bill, we respectfully seek your support for a Fiscal Year 2016 funding level of \$76,000,000 for Developmental Disability Councils (DD Councils), \$41,000,000 for the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (PADD) program, and \$39,000,000 for University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs). This request mirrors the request from the State and Territorial Councils on Developmental Disabilities, the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) System, and the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), which are located in every state and territory.

DD Councils utilize federal funding to support model demonstration grant projects that have increased access to inclusive education, housing, transportation, employment, and secondary transition services for persons with developmental disabilities and their families. By advancing innovative solutions, DD Councils have worked to ensure that people with developmental disabilities have access to services and supports, are fully included in their communities, and are able to become economically self-sufficient.

P&A agencies utilize PADD funding to ensure that children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities who live in all settings are free from abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. PADD funding also emphasizes supports and services that make community living a long term reality. With 57 P&A agencies that advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities in every state, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories, the P&A System is the largest provider of legally-based advocacy services in the United States.

UCEDDs utilize federal funding to promote opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination and be independent, productive, and integrated in all facets of community life. They achieve these goals by conducting research, providing university and community training and technical assistance, and providing evidence-based direct services and supports to people with developmental disabilities, their families, and communities. This includes the development of culturally-competent services and supports for children and adults in health care, education, employment, transition services, and positive behavior supports and interventions.

Despite fiscal constraints over the past decade, DD Councils, P&As, and UCEDDs continue to do important work on behalf of the nation's most vulnerable citizens. Assuring these levels of funding in FY 2016 will help to make certain that UCEDDs, P&As, and DD Councils continue to successfully promote true inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities across the lifespan in all aspects of community life.

With unemployment of individuals with developmental disabilities significantly higher than the general population, it is even more critical that DD Councils, UCEDDs, and P&As have adequate funding now to help create and support programs and policies that move people with developmental disabilities into competitive, integrated employment, which results in more fulfilled lives that benefit individuals and society as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued attention to these important national priorities.

Sincerely,



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Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

Despite fiscal constraints over the past decade, DD Councils, the AA and the LEP, continue to do important work on behalf of the nation's most vulnerable citizens. Learning from the success of funding in FY 2011 will help to make certain that CCIDD, F&A, and DD Councils continue to successfully integrate and inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities across the lifespan in all aspects of community life.

With incorporation of individuals with developmental disabilities significantly higher than the general population, it is even more critical that DD Councils, CCIDD, and F&A have effective funding now to help create and support programs and policies that more people with developmental disabilities into competitive, integrated employment, which results in more related lives that benefit individuals and society as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued support of these important national priorities.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator