



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

March 6, 2006

Dear Budget Committee Member,

We, the undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), are writing to respectfully request that you frame a Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Resolution that permits the federal government to address the myriad needs of people with disabilities. The CCD is the nation's largest and leading coalition that addresses disability policy. CCD member organizations represent national advocacy, provider, professional and other groups. In general, our constituency is greatly concerned that the Administration's FY 2007 budget request, if implemented, would, like last year, require federal agencies to retreat from, not advance, the independence, economic self sufficiency and community integration of the 55 million citizens with disabilities in our country.

The woefully inadequate FY 2006 funding levels for disability discretionary programs, coupled with the billions of dollars in cuts to vital entitlements that serve our constituency, are a recipe for disaster. Major cuts to Medicaid and jobs training programs, along with freezes to many disability programs are forcing the states to eliminate and/or reduce services and supports to children and adults with disabilities. That scenario cannot and must not be repeated this year. Yet, it is clear that the Administration's FY 2007 budget request would bring more harm to our constituents. More cuts to entitlement and discretionary programs are proposed, from job training to housing, to discretionary health programs, to special education, to Medicaid, Medicare and other vital entitlement programs. The budget also proposes the complete elimination of funding for critical health, employment and advocacy programs. These proposals are wholly unacceptable to us and must be rejected by the Congress.

We are chagrined and appalled that decades of slow but steady progress to improve the lives of people with disabilities is now seriously threatened by these draconian fiscal policies. We know from experience that programs that move individuals from dependence to independence is sound public policy. We also know that the maintaining or even increasing dependence will cost tax payers more. This is an outcome that we simply cannot afford.

CCD stands ready to be of assistance to you as you begin to work on the FY 2007 Budget Resolution. Thank you very much for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association on Mental Retardation  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Council of the Blind  
American Congress for Community Supports and Employment Services  
American Dance Therapy Association  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Network of Community Options and Resources  
American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Center for Disability Issues & the Health Professions  
Council for Exceptional Children  
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)  
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Easter Seals  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Helen Keller National Center  
Inter-National Association of Business, Industry and Rehabilitation  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Coalition on Deaf-Blindness  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Mental Health Association  
NISH  
National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives  
National Rehabilitation Association  
National Respite Coalition  
National Spinal Cord Injury Association  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
The Arc of the United States  
Title II Community AIDS National Network  
United Cerebral Palsy  
United Spinal Association  
US Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association  
World Institute on Disability