



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

December 8, 2005

Dear Conferee on the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill:

The undersigned member organizations of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), the nation's largest organization advocating for and with the nation's 54 million American with disabilities and their families, urge you to return to conference deliberations on H.R. 3010, the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education appropriations bill and to support the actions taken by the Senate on November 18, 2005, to designate \$ 2.2 billion of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding as emergency spending.

As an organization representing people with disabilities and their families living in communities across the nation, we urge you to provide strong funding for programs that allow people of all abilities to live, work, play and be educated in their own communities. Within the Departments of Labor, Health, and Education, there are many valuable health, education, developmental disabilities, and employment programs that assist people with disabilities in living independently. However, without adequate funding, these programs will fall far short of their intended goals. CCD encourages you to provide the highest level of funding possible for programs serving low-income families and people with disabilities. Because of the overwhelming unmet needs of people with disabilities, these programs must not be cut below their 2005 funding levels.

Please take the Labor-HHS-Education bill back to conference and craft legislation that will better support people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Adapted Physical Activity Council
American Association on Health and Disability
American Association on Mental Retardation
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Congress of Community Supports and Employment Services
American Council of the Blind
American Diabetes Association
American Foundation for the Blind
American Music Therapy Association
American Network of Community Options and Resources
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association

American Psychological Association
American Society for Deaf Children
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
Council for Exceptional Children
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
Developmental Disabilities Research Centers Association
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children
Easter Seals
Epilepsy Foundation
Helen Keller National Center
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education
IDEA Infant Toddler Coordination Association
Inter-National Association of Business, Industry and Rehabilitation
Learning Disabilities Association of America
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics
National Association of Private Special Education Centers
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Coalition on Deaf Blindness
National Consortium of Physical Education and Recreation for the Disabled
National Disability Rights Network
National Fragile X Foundation
National Mental Health Association
National Organization for Social Security Claimants' Representatives
National PTA
National Rehabilitation Association
National Respite Coalition
NISH
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America
Research Institute on Independent Living
School Social Work Association of America
TASH
The Arc of the United States
United Cerebral Palsy
United Spinal Association
World Institute on Disability