



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

April 4, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
House Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Blunt and Cole and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Task Force on Developmental Disabilities, Autism, and Family Support write to urge adequate funding for programs authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act). We respectfully request a Fiscal Year 2019 funding level of \$76,000,000 for the State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils), \$42,000,000 for the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (PADD) program run by Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agencies, \$43,500,000 for the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (UCEDDs), and \$12,000,000 for the Administration on Community Living (ACL)/Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) Projects of National Significance (PNS).

The DD Act established DD Councils, P&As, and UCEDDs (DD Act programs) in every state and territory to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities through capacity building, systems change, advocacy, and the enforcement and protection of civil rights. The DD Act programs have been integral to the growth and development of service systems across the nation that states alone would not have capacity to do. For example, the DD Act programs work with state governments, advocates, and other stakeholders to:

- Provide resources to test out new service models.
- Conduct research and evaluation of outcomes and effectiveness.
- Conduct extensive interdisciplinary training on cutting edge service strategies and evidenced-based practices.

- Provide advocacy to protect legal rights.

With better diagnosis and treatment, persons with developmental disabilities are living longer lives and new issues around aging and caregiving must be met. DD Act programs are experiencing increasing demand for services to address existing issues for persons with developmental disabilities, such as barriers to employment and impediments to full community participation. The DD Act programs are essential in helping states' Medicaid agencies, developmental disabilities agencies, schools, and other providers to meet the mandates of bipartisan laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Achieving Better Life Experience Act, and Every Student Succeeds Act. Through advocacy, research, training, and local grant allocations, the DD Act programs assure that individuals with significant disabilities are served in the community, rather than in institutional settings.

We also request continued support for ACL/AIDD's Projects of National Significance. PNS gather and report longitudinal data on the costs of, status of and trends in residential, in-home, individual, family and employment services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They provide technical assistance to strengthen and support service networks, disseminate research, and share best practices nationwide. They assist policy makers at the state and national levels to understand and improve policies and practices for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by monitoring progress, measuring outcomes and identifying or developing new evidence-based practices. They demonstrate promising practices or improve existing practices in areas of national importance such as cost-effective family supports, increasing employment opportunities, and ensuring an adequate supply of qualified people to provide supports. They also inform policy makers and stakeholders about critical emerging needs (e.g., babies born with Zika infection, strategies for supporting the rising number of children and adults with autism spectrum disorders, and cost-effective supports and services for an aging population).

Despite fiscal constraints over the past decade, DD Councils, P&As, UCEDDs, and PNS continue to engage in creating positive systems change in communities. Assuring these levels of funding in FY 2019 for the DD Act programs and PNS recognizes the critical role these programs have in moving the entire field of intellectual and developmental disabilities forward through research, program development, education, advocacy, and training that enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued attention to these important national priorities. For more information please contact Erin Pranglely at epranglely@nacdd.org.

Sincerely,

American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)
American Psychological Association
Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Autism Society
Autism Speaks
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)
Easterseals
Family Voices
IDEA Infant Toddlers Coordinators Association (ITCA)
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)
National Disability Rights Network
National Respite Coalition
Parent to Parent USA
TASH
The Arc of the United States