



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

April 30, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer and Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) and allies write in support of Sen. Smith and Rep. Craig's efforts to provide dependent stimulus payments to adult dependents, many of whom are people with disabilities. CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

The CARES Act provided important economic impact payments to people to help them meet their financial obligations during the COVID-19 crisis and provided \$500 dependent credits for qualifying children in recognition of the financial needs of families with dependents.<sup>1</sup> However, while the CARES Act exempts from the full stimulus payments any "individual with respect to whom a deduction under section 151 is allowable to another taxpayer for a taxable year beginning in the calendar year in which the individual's taxable year begins"<sup>2</sup> it only provides the \$500 dependent credit for children younger than 17.<sup>3</sup> This means that college students, adults with disabilities, and others who are dependents under section 151,<sup>4</sup> but are over the age of 17 neither receive the full \$1200 stimulus payment nor the additional \$500 credit, providing them with no direct financial support during this time.

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<sup>1</sup> P.L. 116-136 § 2201(a) (Mar. 27, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> P.L. 116-136 § 2201(a) (Mar. 27, 2020).

<sup>3</sup> P.L. 116-136 § 2201(a) (Mar. 27, 2020); 26 U.S.C § 24(c).

<sup>4</sup> 26 U.S.C § 151(c). Dependents under this section are defined in 26 U.S.C § 152.

Both Rep. Craig’s “All Dependent Children Count Act” (H.R. 6420), and Sen. Smith’s “All Dependents Count Act,” would make great strides in ensuring that dependents who are currently ineligible for the qualifying dependent stimulus payments of \$500 per dependent authorized by the CARES Act receive those stimulus payments. We support both bills, as we think that any expansion of the dependent credits to those currently excluded will be helpful to people with disabilities and their families. However, it should be noted that Rep. Craig’s bill would expand the \$500 dependent credit to qualifying children as defined in section 152, but not qualifying relatives.<sup>5</sup> This is an excellent starting point and would certainly provide much needed aid to many who are currently excluded. Sen. Smith’s bill, however, provides the \$500 dependent credit to a broader swath of individuals, ensuring that both qualifying children and qualifying relatives as defined in section 152 will receive the payments.<sup>6</sup> This broader definition would ensure that people with disabilities who do not reside with their families, but are claimed as dependents would be eligible for the \$500 credit as well and we would encourage the inclusion of these dependent relatives as well.

We would encourage you to consider the inclusion of this important legislative priority in the next coronavirus relief package to ensure that people with disabilities are better financially supported during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please contact Bethany Lilly ([lilly@thearc.org](mailto:lilly@thearc.org)) or Erin Shea ([eshea@cpr-us.org](mailto:eshea@cpr-us.org)) with any questions.

Sincerely,

ADAPT Montana  
AIDS Alabama  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Network Community Options & Resources (ANCOR)  
American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
Association of People Supporting Employment First  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
Autism Society of America  
Autism Speaks  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
California Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Public Representation  
Child Welfare League of America  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
Church World Service  
Coalition of Labor Union Women  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition

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<sup>5</sup> All Dependent Children Count Act, H.R. 6420, 116th Cong. (2020).

<sup>6</sup> All Dependents Count Act, available at <https://smithsenate.app.box.com/s/golzk0wdj3cwwpkzj0xciiju4osq0ml4>.

CommunicationFIRST  
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia  
Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
Designer Genes of North Dakota, Inc.  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)  
Diverse Disability Media  
Down Syndrome Affiliates in Action  
Down Syndrome Alliance of the Midlands  
Down Syndrome Association of Connecticut, Inc.  
Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte  
Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville  
Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area  
Down Syndrome Foundation of Florida  
Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City  
Down Syndrome Indiana  
Easterseals  
Economic Security Project  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Islamic Relief USA  
Justice in Aging  
Legal Aid at Work  
Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress  
Muslim Caucus of America  
NAACP  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Council of State Agencies for the Blind  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Down Syndrome Society  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Women's Law Center  
Oasis Legal Services  
OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates  
Paralyzed Veterans of America

## RESULTS

Spina Bifida Association

Starkloff Disability Institute

TASH

The Arc of the United States

Union for Reform Judaism

United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries

United Spinal Association

World Institute on Disability