



CCD Education Task Force Urges Congress to Support Children with Disabilities: Reject H.R. 1

June 5, 2025

Washington, DC- In response to the passage of *H.R. 1*, the House budget reconciliation bill, the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) Education Task Force calls upon the U.S. Senate to **reject the bill** due to several provisions that significantly harm infants, toddlers, children, youth, and young adults with disabilities.

Specifically, H.R. 1 intends to:

- **Add a new \$20 billion voucher program** that will divert public funds to private schools via the *Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA)*, which CCD has opposed. While language was added to reference students with disabilities and accessing “equitable services”—as allowed under current law to ensure public school districts reserve some special education funding for parentally placed children in private schools—the **bill does not include any meaningful protections for students with disabilities eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**. Shifting taxpayer dollars through a tax credit to fund scholarships (aka vouchers) to any non-public school is harmful, primarily because the recipient schools are not required to adhere to the IDEA and other federal education and civil rights laws. Recipient schools are also known to reject or reconsider proposed admission to students with disabilities who may require specialized instruction, education services and supports, or accommodations to access an education. Thus, when parents use vouchers or other private choice mechanisms, unless explicitly protected, they forfeit important rights, legal protections, and services guaranteed by IDEA, often without their knowledge. These schools are also not required to ensure students meet state-set standards in reading, math, science, and graduation, as expected for all other schools under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- **Cut Medicaid by over \$800 billion**, which provides critical support for infants, toddlers, and youth with disabilities. States rely on Medicaid to finance IDEA Part C early intervention services for young children from birth to age two who qualify for both programs; approximately half of the young children served by Part C (nearly 250,000 infants and toddlers) are also enrolled in Medicaid. Additionally, Medicaid is the fourth largest funding stream for K-12 schools and provides reimbursement (with parental consent) for many of the supports and services a student needs to access their education, such as physical, occupational, or speech therapy, or assistive technology. Cutting funding to Medicaid while simultaneously diverting funds away from K-12 schools will leave states and school districts to make impossible choices about which children to serve.

- **Cut \$350 million through changes to Pell Grants and student loans** which creates barriers to students with disabilities attending college. More than 3.5 million students who attend college report having some type of disability and 45 percent receive a Pell Grant. H.R. 1 would only offer grants to full-time students taking 30 credit hours per academic year, thus requiring students to add 6 additional credit hours annually. This provision also eliminates existing flexibility to prorate Pell funding based on credit hours and will create hardship for students with disabilities who may adjust their semester load due to the nature of their disability, their need to also work while attending school, or other factors. Similarly, 36 percent of students with disabilities receive student loans from the federal government and the proposed changes – which allow risk sharing analysis prior to loaning the funds – will unfairly disadvantage students with disabilities, restrict their access, and deepen systemic inequities in access to higher education.

Despite the disability community’s request of Congress to fully fund the IDEA in support of all school districts, to keep Medicaid intact, and to promote and support access to college for all young adults, the House has passed a bill that would spend \$5 billion annually for a voucher scheme that does not support all students with disabilities. To offset the cost, there would be devastating and intractable cuts to Medicaid and student loan programs that are essential to millions of infants, toddlers, youth, and young adults with disabilities. Together, these proposals place all disabled children and young adults with disabilities at great risk of losing critical access to screening, early intervention, school-based services, therapies, assistive technology, post secondary education, and more.

CCD, therefore, calls upon the U.S. Senate **to SUPPORT all children with disabilities and REJECT H.R. 1.**

CCD actively partners with Congress on education laws and policies in support of all children, youth and young adults with disabilities and welcomes any opportunity to assist in the development of legislation that includes and protects these individuals and their families.

Sincerely,

Access Ready Inc.
Allies for Independence
American Music Therapy Association
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Assistive Technology Industry Association
Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autism Society of America
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Center for Learner Equity
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
CommunicationFIRST
Council for Exceptional Children
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates

Disability Belongs
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)
Division for Learning Disabilities of the Council for Exceptional Children (DLD)
Epilepsy Foundation of America
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Down Syndrome Congress
Perkins School for the Blind
School Social Work Association of America
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network
TASH
The Advocacy Institute
The Arc of the United States

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The CCD Education Task Force leads, advocates for, and monitors federal legislation and regulations that address the educational needs of children and youth with disabilities and their families, including policy efforts affecting the funding and implementation of federal laws such as IDEA, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). We advocate for high expectations for children with disabilities under these and other laws.

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