



May 11, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sens. Leahy and Shelby and Reps. DeLauro and Granger:

On behalf of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Public Policy Committee and undersigned state councils on developmental disabilities (DD Councils), we write to provide additional information which may be helpful as you begin deliberation on the fiscal year 2023 federal appropriations legislation.

NACDD is the national association for the 56 DD Councils across the United States and its territories. The DD Councils, authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act), receive federal funding to support programs that promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion for all people in the United States with developmental disabilities. The NACDD Public Policy Committee advocates for federal public policies that directly relate to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). DD Councils work within each state to promote community living free from discrimination for people with I/DD.

Significant disparities exist for people with I/DD and people without disabilities in all aspects of community living. This includes higher rates of poverty and less access to employment, educational attainment, health care, transportation, housing, and other social determinates of health. Congress created DD Councils so people with I/DD and their families could identify problems or gaps in state and federal support systems and create innovative solutions with community partners to improve outcomes for people with I/DD in long term supports and services, healthcare, employment, transportation, education, housing, and more. For over fifty years, DD Councils have successfully advocated for and invested in person-centered and family-centered innovations so people with I/DD can live their fullest lives.



DD Councils also continue to partner with federal and state agencies to address COVID-19. People with I/DD are at greater risk of illness and death due to COVID-19. Federal agencies and states look to DD Councils to bridge public health communication gaps with the I/DD community, advocate for non-discrimination in health care, promote vaccination, distribute personal protective equipment, support access to telehealth, and more.

Congressional support through the federal appropriations process ensures that DD Councils will be able to continue their vital role promoting community living for people with I/DD. For more information about the DD Council in your state or any information contained in this letter please contact Erin Prangley, Policy Director, NACDD at eprangley@nacdd.org.

Sincerely,

Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities
Alaska Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education
Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
California State Council on Developmental Disabilities
CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
Delaware Council on Developmental Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma
Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities
Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities
Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council
Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities
Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Maine Developmental Disabilities Council
Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council
Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council
Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities
Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities
New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities



New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities
North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities
North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Puerto Rico Developmental Disabilities Council
South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities
Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Utah Developmental Disabilities Council
Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council
Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council
Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

cc:

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, & Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Jerry Moran, Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, & Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations



The Honorable José Serrano, Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, & Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Robert Aderholt, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, & Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations