



## **CCD Statement on Passage of the Inflation Reduction Act**

The Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) applauds passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). This bill contains key provisions that will positively impact people with disabilities. While the IRA represents an important step forward, CCD urges Congress to continue this commitment to people with disabilities—as several provisions in previous iterations that are vital to their wellbeing were not included and must also be passed.

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 free from racism, ableism, sexism, and xenophobia, as well as LGBTQ+ based discrimination and religious intolerance.

CCD is pleased that the following healthcare provisions have been enacted: a three-year extension of premium subsidies to maintain access to Affordable Care Act health insurance; creation of a maximum out-of-pocket cap under Medicare Part D; and expansion of the Part D Low-Income Subsidy. CCD also supports language that addresses a key disability concern about the use of Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALY's) by banning the use of evidence or findings from comparative effectiveness research that treats extending the life of a person with a disability as of lower value than extending the life of an individual without a disability. Finally, CCD appreciates that the Neighborhood Access and Grant Equity Program will provide funding for necessary accessible, affordable and safe transportation.

Many provisions that had been included in previous iterations were unfortunately left out of the final IRA. These provisions are essential to disabled people and Congress must act swiftly to ensure they, too, become law. This includes:

- A long-overdue investment in Medicaid home and community-based services. The vast majority of both aging adults and people with disabilities want to live at home, yet many face barriers—including staffing shortages, gaps in service availability and lengthy waiting lists—to getting the support they need to do so. The costs of this inadequate system fall disproportionately on people of color with limited income and wealth. The HCBS workforce provides vital services, and yet these workers—who are primarily women of color—have been devalued and underpaid for decades, resulting in a staffing crisis that threatens the community integration of millions of people with disabilities and older adults; and
- Policies and increased funding for affordable, accessible, and integrated housing which include \$25 billion to expand Housing Choice Rental Assistance vouchers, \$1.45 billion to expand project based rental assistance like HUD Section 811, \$65 billion to preserve public housing, as well as key changes to the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program. For more information, see this letter from the CCD

Housing Task Force: <https://www.c-c-d.org/fichiers/CCD-Reconciliation-Housing-letter.pdf>; and

- A paid leave program that addresses the needs of workers with disabilities and caregivers. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the dire need for paid leave, an issue about which people with disabilities and caregivers have been aware of for decades. For more information, see CCD's letter urging the inclusion of a paid leave program here: <https://www.c-c-d.org/fichiers/CCD-Paid-Leave-in-Recovery-Package 4-14-21.pdf>.

CCD thanks Congress for their diligence in enacting provisions through the IRA that will improve the lives of people with disabilities. We urge Congress to expeditiously focus on and pass provisions that are equally important to people with disabilities including but not limited to those outlined here.