



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

August 7, 2020

Chairman Chuck Grassley
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities' (CCD) Developmental Disabilities Autism and Family Support Task Force, Financial Security and Poverty Task Force, and allied organization write to thank you and the Senate Finance Committee for your work to include a provision in the "American Workers, Families, and Employers Assistance Act"¹ that would ensure parents and caretakers of adult dependents receive \$500 dependent rebates. People with disabilities and older adults have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of them are at greater risk of harm from COVID-19 and have lost their community and health supports. This provision will help alleviate the increasing financial burden faced by many families caring for dependents with disabilities and older relatives and thus we strongly support the inclusion of this provision in the final version of the next COVID-19 relief bill.

We thank Congress for recognizing in the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136) the dire financial situation faced by families as a result of the pandemic. The CARES Act addressed this issue by providing important economic impact payments to individuals and dependent rebates for children younger than 17. Unfortunately, the definition used by the CARES Act for "dependent" was not aligned with the definition of "dependent" under 26 U.S.C § 152 of the federal tax code, thereby excluding adult dependents (many of whom have disabilities) and their parents and caretakers from the recovery rebates. Those who were left out include parents with adult children living with a variety of conditions such as Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, spinal cord injury, and bipolar disorder. It also excluded many adult children who provide the majority of the financial support for their elderly parents.

These taxpayers included in the American Workers, Families, and Employers Assistance Act are among the fifty-three million family caregivers who provide the vast majority of our nation's long-term services and supports, permitting individuals of all ages to remain in their communities and avoid or delay more costly out-of-home

¹ <https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/SFC%20CARES%202.0%20Legislative%20Text.pdf>

placements². As the pandemic continues to run its course with no end in sight, it is absolutely critical that these families and their dependents receive direct financial support in the next COVID-19 relief bill.

Again, we thank you and the Committee for the inclusion of this important provision that would ensure parents and caretakers of dependent adult children with disabilities or other adult dependents receive recovery rebates and urge that it be included in any final version of the next COVID-19 relief bill. We look forward to working with you and the Committee on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact Annie Acosta (Acosta@TheArc.org) or Cyrus Huncharek (cyrus.huncharek@ndrn.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

CCD Member Organizations

American Network of Community Options & Resources (ANCOR)

Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)

Autism Society of America

Autism Speaks, Inc.

CommunicationFIRST

Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund

Easterseals

Epilepsy Foundation

Family Voices

Justice in Aging

National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services

National Disability Institute

National Disability Rights Network

National Down Syndrome Congress

National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR)

National Organization on Disability

National Respite Coalition

² Caregiving in the U.S. (2020). AARP and the National Alliance for Caregiving. Available at <https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/ppi/2020/05/full-report-caregiving-in-the-united-states.doi.10.26419-2Fppi.00103.001.pdf?intcmp=AE-CAR-BAS-IL>

Paralyzed Veterans of America

The Arc of the United States

Ally Organization

National Down Syndrome Society