



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

August 6, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Eviction Prevention and Affordable Housing Protections**

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer,

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, integration, and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. We are writing on behalf of the CCD Housing Task Force to demand legislation to prevent large-scale, serious harm to many people with disabilities and their families.

As you know, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act eviction moratorium has expired, and many state and local moratoria have ended or will end soon. Federal unemployment benefits have also ended, and local rental assistance programs are being quickly depleted by overwhelming need. Right now, in order to prevent a wave of evictions in this country, we need an extended and broad moratorium on evictions, foreclosure protections, and sufficient emergency rental assistance to keep low-income renters, including people with disabilities, stably housed during and after the public health emergency. Evictions will risk lives, could further burden overstretched hospital systems, and make it much more difficult for the U.S. to effectively address the virus.

Many people with disabilities face significant health disparities, and many have underlying health conditions that too often mean experiencing complications and death if exposed to COVID-19. This risk has been further elevated by the severe outbreaks in institutions and other congregate settings for people with disabilities.

Even before the COVID-19 crisis, people with disabilities and their families faced a national shortage of accessible and affordable housing, particularly the lowest-income people with disabilities. People with disabilities often have few financial resources and remain among the country's poorest. Most families living in poverty have little to no margin for an unexpected expense that may arise during this time of economic distress and uncertainty. This lack of sufficient safe, accessible, affordable housing is a continuing and significant barrier to integrated community living, making it difficult for people with disabilities to move from segregated

facilities into the community, and putting many people with disabilities at risk of institutionalization or homelessness, which in current times also means higher rates of infection and death from the coronavirus.

Congress must enact the critical housing and homelessness resources and protections in the House-passed HEROES Act: a national, uniform moratorium on all evictions for nonpayment of rent; \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance; \$11.5 billion to help address the health and housing needs of people experiencing homelessness; and at least \$13 billion in additional resources to ensure housing stability. These emergency rental assistance, housing, and homelessness resources for coronavirus relief must also be implemented in a manner that includes people with disabilities exiting public and private congregate settings and institutions.

In the long-term, permanent affordable housing solutions and supports are key to ensuring people with disabilities can remain in the community and successfully transition from congregate settings. Congress must increase investments in proven solutions, including targeted programs such as Mainstream Vouchers and Section 811 Supportive Housing, as well as Housing Choice Vouchers, the National Housing Trust Fund, and other programs. Robust long-term services and supports are also crucial, and meaningful federal and state investment, particularly in home and community-based services, is essential for aging adults and people with disabilities to remain in their homes and not be forced into congregate settings to receive necessary services, and so that people can safely transition back to the community.

We strongly urge you to act, to prevent this rapidly evolving disaster. We appreciate the resources and crucial housing funding that has already been allocated – unfortunately, the reality is that much more is needed. Every day of delay puts more people with disabilities and their families at immediate risk. We’re already seeing increased evictions. Please act now to prevent widespread evictions and ensure housing stability, to save lives. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at Molly Burgdorf, [burgdorf@thearc.org](mailto:burgdorf@thearc.org) or Andrew Sperling, [asperling@nami.org](mailto:asperling@nami.org).

Sincerely,

Molly Burgdorf, The Arc of the United States  
Co-Chair, CCD Housing Task Force

Andrew Sperling, National Alliance on Mental Illness  
Co-Chair, CCD Housing Task Force