



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

May 7, 2012

The Honorable James P. Moran
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Moran:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Veterans and Military Families Task Force wish to commend you for introducing the “Disabled Military Child Protection Act”, HR 4329. This measure will enable military retirees who invest in a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) to transfer their benefits to a Special Needs Trust (SNT) for their children with disabilities, accessible after the retiree passes away.

CCD is a coalition of national disability rights, advocacy, consumer, and provider organizations. The Veterans and Military Families Task Force follows issues of concern to veterans with disabilities and military family members with disabilities.

This measure will be of great benefit to thousands of military families and will erase a most inequitable anomaly that exists under current law. Today, service members with children with disabilities face an unfortunate dilemma. If they wish to ensure that, after their deaths, their children are provided with adequate care, they can direct survivor benefits to that child. However, the law only permits these benefits to go directly to that child and, as a result, the child becomes ineligible for many of the long term services and supports offered by Medicaid. Civilian families are able to create special needs trusts for their children with disabilities that preserve their access to Medicaid. Correction of this disparity is long overdue.

We applaud your efforts to assist military families and children with disabilities. If our task force can assist you in advancing this legislation, please do not hesitate to call upon us. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Prokop, CCD Veterans Task Force Co-Chair, at (202) 416-7707 or by email at susanp@pva.org; or Heather Ansley, CCD Veterans and Military Families Task Force Co-Chair, at (202) 556-2076, Ext. 7702 or by e-mail at hansley@vetsfirst.org.

ACCSES

American Counseling Association

American Music Therapy Association

Brain Injury Association of America

Mental Health America

National Council on Independent Living

National Disability Rights Network

National Rehabilitation Association

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Vets First, a program of United Spinal Association

Vietnam Veterans of America