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to Promote
Self-Determination

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Congress' Budget Deal Makes Important Updates that Put Employment First
New Social Security Disability Insurance pilot ensures people with disabilities will contribute to a strengthened economy

WASHINGTON, DC – In response to the budget deal announced this week by Congress and scheduled to go to the House floor soon, Madeleine Will, board member and founder, Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination (CPSD) issued the following statement in support of the proposal's provisions that eliminate disincentives to work and include a new requirement for a demonstration to identify and test variables that will encourage people on Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) to work.

" These important changes to the SSDI program represent a long-awaited bell weather demonstrating that many in Congress have recognized it is imperative to focus on improving employment outcomes for people with disabilities in a systemic and systematic manner. CPSD is pleased both with the elimination of disincentives to work and Congress including the requirement for demonstration(s) to identify and test variables that will encourage people to work."

The budget agreement includes a voluntary pilot that would be open to SSDI qualifying beneficiaries. Two important intentions are to test a range of thresholds, and to better understand benefit offset policies that have the potential to result in higher employment rates and reduce reliance on benefits in the future.

Will concluded, "While we know more should be done in the long-term to modernize both Social Security Insurance (SSI) and SSDI, we see Congress' effort this week as a tremendous first-step in avoiding a scatter-shot approach to updating systems. It is especially critical that young people with disabilities who are better prepared and more eager to become employed than ever before have an opportunity to achieve as much economic freedom as possible. "

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The CPSD is an advocacy network of 14 national organization focused on high-impact public policy and systems reform to improve the employment and socio-economic outcomes of citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities promoting optimal outcomes in education, employment, economic advancement, and independent living.

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