



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Statement of Ann O'Hara

Representing the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force

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I am here today representing the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force – an affiliation of many national disability organizations that represent the housing interests of low income people with disabilities. We are here to urge Members of Congress to remove the provisions of H.R. 1461 that would restrict non-profit organizations applying for grants through the Affordable Housing Fund from engaging in non-partisan voter registration, voter identification, or related activities.

Extremely low income people with disabilities – including millions of adults with disabilities who rely solely on federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments of less than \$600 per month are experiencing an affordable housing crisis in every single housing market area of this country. Non-profit disability organizations desperately need these funds to create new housing opportunities for low income people with disabilities in the Gulf Coast area devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Many of these same organizations work tirelessly to help people with disabilities – who are disproportionately represented in the low-income population – to exercise their right to vote. For example, these groups work to improve accessibility at local polling places across the nation, a formidable barrier to the voting rights of people with disabilities.

It is fundamentally wrong for our elected officials to create such a “Solomon’s Choice” for non-profit organizations working on behalf of people with disabilities.

Other contacts:

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