CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

July 20, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner:

On behalf of the Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force, we are writing to offer our strong support for the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2009 (HR 1675). The CCD Housing Task Force is a coalition of national disability organizations which advocates on behalf of the housing needs of people with a variety of disabilities, including developmental disabilities, mental illness, and physical disabilities. Among the national organizations that participate in the CCD Housing Task Force are the, The Arc of the United States (The Arc) United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR), United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Easter Seals, United Spinal Association, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS) and the Brain Injury Association (BIA).

As you know, the HUD Section 811 program is a critical affordable housing resource for non-elderly people with severe disabilities. While the program has been effective in developing permanent supportive housing, improvements are needed. HR 1675 will streamline and simplify the existing process by which 811 sponsors compete for new projects. It will also reform Section 811 and allow for investment of new capital resources from programs such as the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, HOME and the new National Affordable Housing Trust Fund in supportive housing developments. Finally HR 1675 will resolve the current threat to the program from the Section 811 “mainstream” voucher program.

CCD would like to express our gratitude for your willingness to bring HR 1675 forward in the House under suspension of the rules. CCD urges all members to support this important

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legislation. We look forward to working with you to achieve passage of this important legislation in the 111th Congress.

For further information, please contact the Co-Chairs of the CCD Housing Task Force: Andrew Sperling, National Alliance on Mental Illness (Andrew@nami.org), Liz Savage, The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy Disability Policy Collaboration (savage@thedpc.org) or Jessica Sadowsky, ANCOR, (jsadowsky@ancor.org).

Sincerely,

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
American Network of Community Options and Resources
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autism Society
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Burton Blatt Institute
Easter Seals
Lutheran Services in America
Mental Health America
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
National Disability Rights Network
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Spinal Cord Injury Association
The Arc of the United States
United Cerebral Palsy
United Jewish Communities
United Spinal Association

Cc: The Honorable Barney Frank,
The Honorable Spencer Bachus