Re: Canada Disability Benefit

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Dear (*enter your MPs name*),

I write to you today to urge you to support Bill C-22, *An Act to reduce poverty and to support the financial security of persons with disabilities by establishing the Canada disability benefit,*  and to make Bill C-22 your first priority when parliament resumes this fall.

While parliament was in summer break, people with disabilities in Canada have not had a reprieve from poverty. People with disabilities cannot wait any longer for action on the commitment to bring in a new Canada Disability Benefit which has the potential to bring many up above the poverty line.

While many Canadians are currently experiencing the struggles of a budget stretched too thin, people with disabilities are unfortunately familiar with this reality, with the current inflation and financial insecurity only making their situation worse. In Canada, more than 70 percent of adults with an intellectual disability live in poverty. Income and financial disability support is being stretched further and further in the current environment. With inflation at its highest level in decades, many disability support amounts haven’t risen with inflation or are lagging behind actual inflation levels.

In July, inflation was at 7.6%, down from 8.1% in June. This is pushing people with disabilities lower and lower below the poverty line. People with disabilities often have an extraordinarily higher cost of living due for the items they require like accessible housing, medical expenses, specialized and adaptive equipment and other support. These additional expenses, coupled with the historic inflation level, has left many people with disabilities stuck deeper within the cycle of poverty, unable to see a way out.

People with disabilities have been living in poverty for far too long. A monthly Canada Disability Benefit is more important now than ever. Your support is crucial, and it is critical that upon your return to parliament that Bill C-22, *the Canada Disability Benefit Act*, be your priority. I am asking for all party support on this non-partisan issue. I am urging you to work to fast-track the legislation and quickly move Bill C-22 forward, in collaboration with parliamentarians representing different parties for all party support.

People with disabilities cannot wait any longer. For many, this is a matter of life and death. We urge you to vote in favour of working to end poverty for people with disabilities.

Sincerely,