

Re: Bill C-22 - Canada Disability Benefit – Third and Final Reading

Dear (*enter your MPs name*),

I write to you today as your constituent and urge your continued support of Bill C-22, *An Act to reduce poverty and to support the financial security of persons with disabilities by establishing the Canada disability benefit*. As you and your parliamentary colleagues prepare to return from the holiday break on January 30th, I am urging you to actively support the prioritization of Bill C-22, the Canada Disability Benefit, as a first order of business.

I was disappointed that Bill C-22 was not passed by the House of Commons before the holiday break. There was a missed opportunity to get this done, and people with disabilities were left waiting. They cannot wait any longer. Disability poverty has not taken a break and continues to worsen. We need action now. People with disabilities need to know they are a priority for their federal elected representatives.

With the encouraging collaboration and cooperation of all the Members of Parliament who sit on the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA), the disability community was optimistic. The bill has had ample time for debate and consideration in the House and by the HUMA Committee. In fact, there were several constructive amendments passed which have strengthened the bill and added further clarity.

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. This is pushing people with disabilities further below the poverty line.

I am asking for all party support on this non-partisan issue. I am urging you, as my MP, to work in collaboration with parliamentarians and House Leaders representing different parties to finish this job. Please prioritize this as a first order of business. We cannot afford to take a risk to delay this foundational legislation and have it linger on the Order Paper or with prolonged debate or further amendments.

People with disabilities are counting on our elected officials to do what is necessary to end disability poverty. We are urging you to **prioritize** and **fast-track** Bill C-22 at Third Reading and vote in favour so it can get to the Senate as quickly as possible, become law and enable the regulatory process to get started.

This is a historic opportunity that we cannot miss. I look forward to and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,