

URGENT ACTION ALERT!

Tell Congress to Protect Programs
for People with Disabilities



Protect Programs for People with Disabilities

This document explains how changes in the proposed federal budget will affect people with disabilities and how to take action.

Words to Know

Congress	A group of elected leaders who make laws and decide how the U.S. government spends money.
Federal Budget	A plan for how the U.S. government will spend money each year.
Congressional District	A part of a state that elects one person to represent them in Congress.
Advocacy	Speaking up for yourself or others to make change.
Independence	Being able to make choices and live life in your own way.
Program	A service or support that helps people with things like housing or health care.
Cuts	When the government takes away money from a program.
Self-advocacy	When a person with a disability speaks up for their own needs and rights.

What's Happening?

The federal government has proposed to **cut funding** for programs that help people with developmental disabilities. If this happens, over **40,000 people in Ohio** could lose important services that help them live safely and independently. Recently, the Senate voted to protect these programs, now it is up to the House to do the same.

Programs at risk include:

- **Disability Rights Ohio** (investigates abuse and neglect, helps people with disabilities exercise their rights, advocates for access to independent living in the community, helps students stay in school and receive the necessary services to be successful, and access services funded through Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities)
- **The Ohio State University Nisonger Center** (provides early intervention, childcare services, dental clinics, post-secondary education programs, dual diagnosis clinics, and aspirations)
- **The University of Cincinnati Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities** (provides training through the LEND program, educates and supports families through the Ohio Family-to-Family Health Information Center, empowers youth with disabilities and their families in the process of moving from school to community life, and works to improve health and quality of life for people with disabilities)

These programs have existed for **over 50 years** and are critical to protecting rights and supporting community living.

Why It Matters

- These programs support people with disabilities in **every Ohio Congressional district**.
 - They offer help with **legal rights, self-advocacy, education, health, and housing**.
 - Losing these programs would hurt individuals, families, and service providers.
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What You Can Do

Tell your Representative:

Fully fund all disability programs. Don't cut anything. Every program matters. Every person matters.

You can:

- Call their office
- Send an email or letter
- Post on social media and tag them

Know Your District: How Many People Could Be Affected?

District	Representative	Population	With Disabilities	%
01	Landsman	796,831	96,807	12.1%
02	Taylor	787,945	136,797	17.4%
03	Beatty	784,597	92,224	11.8%
04	Jordan	803,311	114,152	14.2%
05	Latta	790,574	111,945	14.2%
06	Rulli	773,456	130,051	16.8%
07	Miller	769,701	103,048	13.4%
08	Davidson	786,259	102,414	13.0%
09	Kaptur	776,106	119,511	15.4%
10	Turner	784,462	120,502	15.4%
11	Brown	772,345	134,848	17.5%
12	Balderson	804,132	114,000	14.2%
13	Sykes	781,848	111,294	14.2%
14	Joyce	784,185	115,470	14.7%
15	Carey	790,183	103,901	13.1%

Statewide Total:

Population: 11,785,935

People with Disabilities: 1,706,964 (14.5%)

Sample Message to Congress

Person with a disability

Hi, my name is [Your Name], and I live in [Your City]. I am a person with a disability I'm asking you to follow the Senate and protect disability programs like Disability Rights Ohio, the Nisonger Center, and the University of Cincinnati CEDD. These programs help people with disabilities live safely and independently. Please don't cut any funding. Every program matters. Every person matters.

Family members of people with disabilities

Hi, my name is [Your Name], and I live in [Your City]. I am a family member of a person with a disability. I'm asking you to follow the Senate and protect disability programs like Disability Rights Ohio, the Nisonger Center, and the University of Cincinnati CEDD. These programs help people with disabilities live safely and independently. Please don't cut any funding. Every program matters. Every person matters.

Professional serving people with disabilities

Hi, my name is [Your Name], and I live in [Your City]. I work in the disability system and serve people with disabilities. I'm asking you to follow the Senate and protect disability programs like Disability Rights Ohio, the Nisonger Center, and the University of Cincinnati CEDD. These programs help people with disabilities live safely and independently. Please don't cut any funding. Every program matters. Every person matters.

Social Media Messages

[Take action now!](#) Tell your Representative to protect programs for people with disabilities in Ohio! Fully fund Disability Rights Ohio, The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, and the University of Cincinnati Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Fully fund all disability programs. Don't cut anything. Every program matters. Every person matters.

Social Media Graphics



Take Action Today

- Share this toolkit
- Call your Representative
- Tell your story
- Share on social media
- Share this link: https://secure.everyaction.com/3m4Mh5xAbkWFUlgvKoQK_A2

Contact Information:

Call the Congressional Switchboard to help you connect to offices at (202) 224-3121

Need help?

Reach out to your local disability organization for help making calls or writing letters. If you need help knowing how to share your story, read this [sharing your story for policy advocacy](#). You can find additional stories on what cuts to these programs mean below:

- [Multiple Ohio nonprofits stress concerns over potential cuts in “Big Beautiful Bill”](#)
- [“Big Beautiful Bill” raises concerns for Ohioans with disabilities](#)
- [Federal programs that help people with developmental disabilities could be reduced, eliminated in agency budgets](#)