



March 28, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune  
Senate Majority Leader  
US Senate SD-511  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
House Minority Leader  
2267 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Minority Leader Schumer:

The American Association of People with Disabilities and the undersigned disability, civil rights, aging, mental health, and patient organizations were dismayed to learn of the plan to re-organize the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), especially the plan to eliminate the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and split its functions across three other agencies, as well as the consolidation of the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency (SAMHSA).

Formed in 2012, ACL was created to advance the fundamental principle that “older adults and people of all ages with disabilities should be able to live where they choose, with the people they choose, and with the ability to participate fully in their communities.” ACL brought together aging and disability programs from across the federal government to efficiently administer similar programs that promote similar goals. Breaking up these programs across three other agencies is the opposite of promoting efficiency, program integrity, and optimization.

This plan also goes against the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act or WIOA, which was passed by Congress in 2014 and which transferred three programs to the ACL: Independent Living Services programs, programs related to The Assistive Technology Act, and The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). WIOA gave the ACL Administrator statutory responsibilities for these programs that cannot just be erased without another act of Congress.

We are also concerned about the consolidation of the OCR into an agency to fight “waste, fraud, and abuse.” OCR does critical work that should not be diluted into only waste, fraud, and abuse. For example, during the initial outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020, OCR moved quickly to issue guidance and conduct enforcement against hospitals that were de-prioritizing people with disabilities for treatment. This civil rights enforcement action saved lives by ensuring that people with disabilities could access life-saving treatment that would otherwise be denied to them.

SAMHSA plays a critical role in promoting mental health and treating substance use disorders across the lifespan. Bipartisan leaders across the government have recognized that we are in the midst of a mental health and substance use disorder crisis. Now is not the time to make massive cuts to this agency.



These changes come amid the dismantling of the Department of Education and major cuts in staffing and services at the Social Security Administration. Together, these cuts will negatively impact disabled Americans' educational opportunities and the ability of disabled Americans and older adults who live in their communities to efficiently apply for and receive the Social Security benefits that they need to survive.

We urge Congress to use its oversight authority to halt this dismantling, hold hearings, and ensure that Americans with disabilities and older adults will not be harmed. For more information, please contact Michael Lewis at [mlewis@aapd.com](mailto:mlewis@aapd.com).

CC:

House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
Senate Committee on Aging

Sincerely,

American Association of People with Disabilities  
3i Housing of Maine  
Ablitree Center For Independent Living (CIL)  
Ability360  
Able South Carolina  
AbleVoices  
Access Central Coast  
Access Living  
Access to Independence  
Access To Independence of Cortland County, Inc.  
AccessAbility  
ADA Watch/Coalition for Disability Rights & Justice  
AdLib, Inc.  
ADRC OF THE NORTH- IRON COUNTY  
Advance Maryland  
AFT: Education, Healthcare, Public Services  
AgeWell Middle Tennessee  
Alabama Lifespan Respite  
Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
All Wheels Up  
Alliance Center for Independence  
Alliance for Retired Americans  
Aloha Independent Living Hawaii



ALS Association  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Cochlear Implant Alliance  
American Council of the Blind  
American Foundation for the Blind  
American Macular Degeneration Foundation  
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Spinal Injury Association  
American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
Appalachian Independence Center  
Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council  
Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council  
Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA)  
ASK Family Services  
Assist To Independence  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)  
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Atlantic Center for Independent Living, Inc  
Atlantis Community, Inc  
ATTIC INC  
Autism Society of America  
Autism Society of Maryland  
Autistic People of Color Fund  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Behavioral Health Research  
Boston Center for Independent Living  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Brain Injury Association of South Carolina  
Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled  
California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A)  
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC)  
California Resource Services for Independent Living  
Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled



Caring Across Generations  
CASH Campaign of Maryland  
CEAR  
Center for Accessible Living  
Center for Independence  
Center for Independent Living of Central PA  
Center for Independent Living Opportunities  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Living & Working, Inc  
Center for Medicare Advocacy  
Center for People With Disabilities  
Center for Public Representation  
Center on Aging and DIS-Ability Policy  
Central Iowa Center for Independent Living  
Child Neurology Foundation  
Clinician Task Force  
Coalition for Home Repair  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council  
CommunicationFIRST  
Community Access Center  
Community Catalyst  
Community Development Center  
Community Development Network of Maryland  
Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.  
Community Resources for Independence, Inc.  
Community Resources for Independent Living  
Compass IL  
Cornerstone Community Housing, Inc.  
Count US IN Inc. (Count US Indiana)  
Connecticut State Independent Living Council  
DC Developmental Disabilities Council  
Deaf Equality  
Detroit Disability Power  
DIAL-Center for Independent Living  
Disabilities Network of Eastern CT  
Disability Action Center (No. California)  
Disability Belongs  
Disability Community Resource Center  
Disability Empowerment Center  
Disability Law Center of Alaska  
Disability Law Center of Utah  
disAbility Law Center of Virginia



Disability Network Lakeshore  
Disability Network Mid-Michigan  
Disability Network Southwest Michigan  
Disability Network Washtenaw Monroe Livingston  
Disability Network Wayne County Detroit  
Disability Network West Michigan  
Disability Network/Michigan  
Disability Options Network  
Disability Policy Consortium  
Disability Resource Center  
Disability Rights @ Ogle Consulting  
Disability Rights Arizona  
Disability Rights California  
Disability Rights Center - NH  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)  
Disability Rights Florida  
Disability Rights Iowa  
Disability Rights Maryland  
Disability Rights Mississippi  
Disability Rights NC  
Disability Rights New Jersey  
Disability Rights New York DRNY  
Disability Rights Ohio  
Disability Rights Pennsylvania  
Disability Rights South Carolina  
Disability Rights South Dakota  
Disability Rights Vermont  
Disability Rights Washington  
Disability Rights WI  
DMV Disability and Senior Community Group  
Drug Policy Alliance  
Dynamic Independence  
Elderly Care Concepts  
Empower Music Therapy  
Empower Tennessee  
Endepence Center  
Epilepsy Foundation of America  
Equality California  
Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center, UMass Chan Medical School  
Everybody Counts, Inc.  
Exceptional Family Resources/ARISE  
Falling Forward Foundation  
Families On The Move of NYC, Inc.



Families USA  
Family Support Organization of Essex County  
Family Voices CO  
Family Voices NJ  
Family Voices of California  
Family Voices of Tennessee  
Family Voices, National  
FiftyForward  
FIRSTwnc  
Foundation for Independent Living - Mountain State Centers for Independent Living  
FREED Center for Independent Living  
Frontier Group Idaho, LLC  
Glens Falls Independent Living Center  
Great Lakes ADA Center  
Greater Springfield Senior Services Inc.  
GWILLIAMS&ASSOCIATES,INC  
Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network  
HASL  
Hawaii Families As Allies  
Huntington's Disease Society of America  
Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Illinois Iowa Center for Independent Living  
IMPACT CIL  
Inclusive Development Partners (IDP)  
Independence Advocates of Maine  
Independence Associates, Inc.  
Independence First  
Independence Now  
Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley  
Independent Resources, Inc.  
Indiana Disability Rights  
Insight Enterprises, Inc. Peninsula Center for Independent Living  
Institute for Community Inclusion (UCEDD)  
Institute on Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois Chicago  
Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition (IDAC)  
InterFaith Works of Central New York  
International Registry of Rehabilitation Technology Suppliers  
Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council  
J Badger Consulting Inc  
Japanese American Citizens League  
JCIL  
John & Junes Mission  
Junction Center for Independent Living, Inc.



Justice in Aging  
Justice Policy Institute  
Kelly's Kitchen  
Kentucky Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Kentucky Protection and Advocacy  
Kentucky Statewide Independent Living Council  
Lake County Center for Independent Living  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Lane Independent Living Alliance (LILA)  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
Legal Action Center  
Liberators for Justice (L4J)  
Liberty Resources Inc.  
Life and Independence for Today (LIFT)  
LIFE Center for Independent Living (LIFE CIL)  
LIFE Inc.  
Linking Employment, Abilities & Potential  
Little Lobbyists  
Living Hope NGO  
Long Island Center for Independent Living, Inc. (LICIL)  
LVCIL  
Maine Parent Federation  
Marin Center for Independent Living  
Mariposa Professional Services  
Maryland Center on Economic Policy  
Maryland Coalition of Families  
Maryland Education Coalition  
MDI Network/AAPI-OT  
Mental Health Association in Michigan  
MetroWest Center for Independent Living  
Mid South Liver Alliance  
Midstate Independent Living Choices, Inc.  
Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council (MNSILC)  
Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council  
MomsRising  
Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Inc.  
Mountain State Centers for Independent Living  
Mountain State Centers for Independent Living - West Virginia  
Movimiento para el Alcance de Vida Independiente  
NAMI Huntington  
NASILC - National Association of Statewide Independent Living Councils  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA)  
National Adult Day Services Association



National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association (NAAPIMHA)  
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of Local Long Term Care Ombudsman  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of the Deaf  
National Center for Pediatric Palliative Care Homes  
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Disability Institute  
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)  
National Disabled Legal Professionals Association  
National Down Syndrome Society  
National Federation of the Blind  
National Health Council  
National Health Law Program  
National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization of Nurses with Disabilities (NOND)  
National Organization on Disability  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National PLACE  
National PLAN Alliance  
National Respite Coalition  
Native American Disability Law Center  
NBJC  
NC Statewide Independent Living Council  
Network of Occupational Therapy Practitioners with Disabilities & Supporters  
Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center  
New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities  
New Horizons Disability Empowerment Center  
New Horizons Respite Care Agency LLC  
New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Council  
North Country Independent Living DBA indiGO  
North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities  
North Dakota Protection & Advocacy Project  
North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living  
Northwest Georgia Center for Independent Living  
Occupational Therapy for Native Americans  
Occupational Therapy Leaders and Legacies Society





Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL)  
Oklahoma Statewide Independent Living Council  
Oklahomans for Independent Living  
Openhouse  
OPTIONS for Independence  
Oregon Statewide Independent Living Council  
OT Leaders & Legacy  
PA ADAPT  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Paraquad  
PAVE  
PEAK Parent Center  
Placer Independent Resource Services  
Prevent Blindness  
Progress Center for Independent Living  
Project Freedom Inc.  
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)  
REACH, Inc.  
Reentry Sisters  
Reframe Health and Justice  
Rehabilitation Associates  
Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA)  
Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism  
Resources for Independence Central Valley  
Resources For Independent Living  
Respite Care Association of Wisconsin  
Rifton Equipment  
Roads to Freedom Center for Independent Living of North Central PA  
Rolling Start, Inc. Center for Independent Living  
Rural Advocates for Independent Living  
S.M.I.L.E  
SAGE  
SDAN  
SEIU Local 500  
Service Center for Independent Life (SCIL)  
Service Employees International Union  
Services for Independent Living, Columbia, Missouri  
Show and Tell  
Silicon Valley Independent Living Center  
Silver State Equality  
Society's Assets, Inc.  
South Carolina Department of Social Services, Adult Protective Services  
Southeastern MN Center for Independent Living, Inc.



Southern Illinois Center for Independent Living  
Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living  
Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living  
Southwest Center for Independence  
Spa Area Independent Living Services  
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network  
Special Education Equal Development Society (SEEDS)  
Speech Garden  
Spina Bifida Association  
SPOKES Unlimited  
Springfield Center for Independent Living  
Statewide Independent Living Council of TN (SILCTN)  
Statewide Independent Living Council, GA  
Stavros Center for Independent Living, Inc.  
Stone Soup Group  
Summit Independent Living  
Superior Alliance for Independent Living  
Supermajority  
TARP Center for Independent Living  
Team Gleason Foundation  
Tennessee Caregiver Coalition  
Tennessee Disability Coalition  
Tennessee Health Care Campaign  
TEXCIL Association of Centers for Independent Living  
The Advocacy Institute  
The Arc - Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties  
The Arc Michigan  
The Arc of the United States  
The Association of Oregon Centers for Independent Living  
The Center for Disability Empowerment  
The Center for Independent Living, Inc.  
The Choice Program at UMBC  
The Dance Centre  
The Disability & Philanthropy Forum  
The Disability Resource Center of the Rappahannock Area, Inc.  
The Freedom Center for Independent Living, Inc.  
The Kelsey  
The Parents' Place of MD  
The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies  
The Pennsylvania Council on Independent Living  
The Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois  
The Whole Person, Inc  
TN Voices



Touch the Future Inc  
Trans Maryland  
Transitional Paths to Independent Living  
Tri-County Independent Living (TCIL)  
Tri-Lakes Center for Independent Living Inc.  
UIC  
Umpqua Valley disAbilities Network  
United Church of Christ  
United Spinal Association  
University of Minnesota, Institute on Community Living  
Vermont Center for Independent Living  
Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights  
Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council  
Voices for Independence  
Voices of Health Care Action  
Walking Spirit  
Walton Options  
Well Spouse Association  
Westchester Disabled On the Move  
Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities  
Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers  
Women Enabled International  
Womxn Beyond Borders  
World Institute on Disability  
Wyoming State Independent Living Council