

UCEDDs

- The President's Budget is one more assault on programs that support people with disabilities and their families.
- This budget decimates the safety net as well as disability and research programs in America.
- As a constituent and [role] at [name your UCEDD], I am appalled that this is what the Administration plans to do to the programs that would impact me/I care about.
- I am very concerned that the President's budget eliminates the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.
- The UCEDDs have played key roles in every major disability initiative over the past four decades. They are the knowledge engine of the Developmental Disabilities network across the country.
- Without UCEDDs, people with disabilities, members of their families, state and local government agencies, and community providers will lose a vital connection to a program that produces impactful research, services, and training.
 - Data: UCEDDs trained over 620,000 people last year – that's an average of 9,253 per UCEDD award and over 10,000 per state. They provided specialized, much needed services to millions of people helping them live well with their disability – last year alone served well over 1.3 million individuals – that is nearly 20,000 people per Center.
- Here in [x state], our programs [name projects, research, community supports your Center or Program provides].
 - Example: I am a researcher at the University of Alabama's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities working on a study that looks into why autistic children are more prone to injury and developing safety interventions for autistic children and their families.
- This research is just one of the many essential projects happening around the country that informs how we can improve health outcomes for people with disabilities.
- In [name your state], the President's budget will result in jobs loss and worsening healthcare outcomes.

- Destroying the systems that support people with disabilities jeopardizes their health and safety and threatens their hard-won civil rights.
- It shows that the Administration does not value people with disabilities or their families, caregivers, or older adults.

LEND

- The President's Budget is one more assault on programs that support people with disabilities and their families.
- The budget decimates HHS, which provides resources and support to make sure people with disabilities and older adults can live in the community, which is their right.
- As a constituent and [role] at [name your LEND], I am very concerned that the President's budget eliminates the Health Resources and Services Administration, under which is the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, which authorizes and funds the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities Programs.
- LEND Programs prepare the healthcare workforce to improve the health of infants, children, and adolescents with disabilities.
- I am a [role] at [name of your LEND Program], where we [describe your training program, how your Program prepares trainees for leadership roles in their respective fields, improves systems of care in your local area].
 - For example: I am a LEND Director at the Cincinnati LEND Program, where we provide graduate-level training to the next generation of clinical, research, and community leaders responsible for improving the healthcare delivery systems for children with developmental disabilities. Since 1967, we've trained more than 2,250 healthcare and other professionals. Cincinnati LEND graduates are in positions in 29 states across the United States as well as the District of Columbia and Thailand.
 - For example: I am a speech-language pathologist and former LEND Fellow through both the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, and the Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison. The LEND Program provided a critical pathway for maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness

of healthcare services at a local and statewide level through the delivery of interdisciplinary and family-focused clinical services crucial to addressing complex needs as these vital skills are not included in other medical education models.

- In [name your state], the President's budget will result in jobs loss and worsening healthcare outcomes.
- Destroying the systems that support people with disabilities jeopardizes their health and safety and threatens their hard-won civil rights.
- It shows that the Administration does not value people with disabilities, caregivers, older adults, or families.

Plain Language

- The President's budget would hurt people with disabilities by taking money away from programs that help us and our families.
- The programs that the President wants to cut are really important because they are focused on making sure people with disabilities can live and work in the community and get healthcare.
- It would be bad to cut this funding that goes towards research about what it's like to have disabilities. This research helps everyone learn what changes we need to make in society to better support and understand people with disabilities.
- If you cut this funding, a lot of people will lose their jobs, and many people will lose health care.
- This budget shows that the Administration does not value people with disabilities, caregivers, older adults, or families.

Phone or Email Script

Dear *(Member of Congress you are contacting)*

My name is *(XXXX)* and I am *(a/the + your title)* at *(your UCEDD/LEND/IDDRC)*. On Wednesday March 16th, a draft or “passback” of the President’s Budget, the HHS budget draft, was leaked widely online and as a constituent and a professional who works on *(quick descriptor of your work at your center/program)*.

The budget calls for dramatic cuts, overall, by about 1/3 that would decimate the safety net as well as disability and research programs in America.

All of the following are Disability programs that are proposed for elimination in the president’s budget.

Preventative health services, elder falls prevention, lifespan respite, long term care ombudsman, chronic disease self-management, elder rights support activities, and elder justice/APS, ADRCs, SHIPs. **DD Councils, DD P&A, PNS, NIDILRR and UCEDDs**, paralysis resource center, limb loss resource center, and *HAVA (accessible voting)*, **Autism and other disorders (LENDs, Development and Behavior Pediatric training programs)**, TBI (moved from CDC), Newborn screening for heritable disorders, Newborn screening for heritable disorders, Universal Newborn hearing screening, Hansen Disease clinics, Adverse Childhood, **39 separate mental health programs, ALS**, Childhood Lead Poisoning, HIV, Head Start

I am appalled by these cuts and how they will harm your constituents with disabilities. I am most concerned personally by the cuts to UCEDDs/LENDs as my Center *(name)* does *(descriptor about your Center/Program’s work)*.

These proposed cuts are a sign of the administration’s ongoing assault against people with disabilities. While Congress contemplates stripping Medicaid bare, agencies including HHS, the Department of Education and SSA are under attack, and now the draft President’s budget makes clear that these attacks will not only continue but will escalate.

Eliminating programs like UCEDDs, LENDs, IDDRCs, and so many others listed above will do immeasurable harm to people with disabilities and their families. We need Congress to stand up for these programs.