

February 13, 2013



Speaking out for people with intellectual & developmental disabilities



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## Reminders: Help VOR Grow!

**Challenge!  
Recruit 5 New  
VOR Members  
Today!**

**Make a Lasting  
Impact with a  
Will Bequest**

## Action Alert!

*Tell the Senate Budget Committee to support choice and prohibit the use of federal funds for deinstitutionalization*

**Time is of the essence. Please act now.**

**Links and template messages are below.**

Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, is offering a "[MyBudget](#)," "an online platform for members of the public to weigh in as our nation works to tackle our budget and economic challenges."

This is our chance to tell Chairman Murray how we feel about federally-funded deinstitutionalization efforts (see, e.g., [NCD's Reckless Deinstitutionalization Toolkit](#)).

**Timing could not be better. Tomorrow (Wed., January 13), the Senate Budget Committee will hold a hearing about the impact of budget decisions on families and communities ([the hearing will be live streamed starting at 10:30 a.m. eastern](#)).**

The MyBudget Platform includes an online form to submit ideas for "Budget Priorities," including "programs, policies, or tax loopholes that the federal government spends money on that you think it shouldn't."

Our message is simple: **"The federal government should not support the use of federal dollars by federal agencies to aggressively pursue the closure of licensed facility-based homes providing good care to people with I/DD, without any regard for the input or insights of the affected residents and their families; and without regard to well-documented tragedies."**

Senator Murray encourages the public to share their personal stories, so you are encouraged to personalize this basic message.

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A longer template for your use is also shared below. VOR submitted a very similar message today.

[Click here to access the MyBudget online comment form.](#) Then add your message (see template below).

Other ways to be heard:

Twitter

[@SenateBudget](#)

[@PattyMurray](#)

[@BudgetGOP](#)

Sample tweet: "[@SenateBudget](#) Federal funds should not be used close quality facility homes for people with I/DD w/o individual or family input. It's cruel."

[Senate Budget Committee's Facebook page](#)

[Senator Patty Murray's Facebook page](#)

[Members of the Senate Budget Committee](#)

**TEMPLATE MESSAGE to use, adapt, personal**

Dear Chairman Murray,

My family member has profound intellectual and developmental disabilities and requires life-sustaining total support and health care in a Medicaid licensed facility.

Federal agencies should be prohibited from spending federal funds to aggressively pursue the closure of licensed facility-based homes without any regard for the input or insights of the affected residents and their families; and without regard to well-documented tragedies.

Some federally-funded agencies, such as the National Council on Disability (funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/HHS), Protection and Advocacy systems (HHS-funded), and the U.S. Department of Justice expend significant federal funds for the sole purpose of transitioning people out of HHS-funded and licensed

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Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFs/ID) and other federally-licensed facilities. These actions, by executive branch agencies, are in violation of federal law, which supports residential choice (Americans with Disabilities Act as interpreted by the Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision) and the ICF/ID program.

Unconscionably, these agencies accuse *me* of violating my family members' civil rights simply because I have made the decision to secure services in a care facility.

The individuals served in these facilities, like my family member, are profoundly disabled and often medically fragile. These agencies have all used federal influence and funding to force these people out of their homes often to well-documented tragedy and contrary to the wishes of their family members who know their needs best.

**This is not only wasteful federal funding, but cruel.**

The federal budget must include language to prohibit the use of federal funding for the deinstitutionalization of duly licensed care facilities for people with I/DD.

*Full name / complete contact information*

**THANK YOU! PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR  
COMMENTS TODAY! NUMBERS COUNT!**

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