

The U.S. Congress is voting on the [proposed national budget](#) that incorrectly lumps University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs), like the WVU CED, in with DEI programs. The budget proposes to eliminate all UCEDDs. Losing this funding will completely remove all services provided by the WVU CED that are free to families and providers.

Below you will find a short phone or voicemail script that you can use to contact West Virginia legislators if you so choose.

Call Senator Jim Justice

202-224-3954

Call Senator Shelley Moore Capito

202-224-6472

Call Representative Carol Miller

202-225-3452

Call Representative Riley Moore

202-225-2711

Short phone or voicemail script:

“My name is _____, I’m a resident of West Virginia and my zip code is _____. I’m asking [legislator name] to not defund UCEDDs, like the WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities and put them back into the HHS budget. UCEDDs are not DEI programs. They focus on research, training and services to improve life for individuals with disabilities. This includes the many veterans and aging citizens of our state.

In West Virginia, the impact of these cuts would be severe, with:

- 96 jobs lost across the state.
- \$11.2 million in leveraged funds lost.
- Reduced services for approximately 360,000 disabled West Virginians; and
- More strain placed on families and communities.

Last year the WVU CED provided services to over 400,000 people. These services reduce reliance on public aid, fill critical provider shortages, and provide a strong return on every public dollar. Please save them!

Thank you.”