

The proposed 43% cut to Disability Rights of West Virginia (DRWV)'s protection and advocacy funding would have a significant and immediate impact on a state that already faces unique challenges regarding its disability population.

Below is a sample letter/email that can be used by Disability Rights of WV and their partners to contact legislators if they so choose.

Subject: Urgent: Protect Protection and Advocacy Funding for West Virginians with Disabilities

Dear [Legislator's Name],

I am writing to express my serious concern regarding the proposed reductions in funding for vital programs serving individuals with disabilities in West Virginia, including the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Disabilities (PAIR), Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI), Protection and Advocacy for the Help America Vote Act (PAVA), and the Client Assistance Program (CAP).

Adding to these concerns are the proposed cuts to University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs), such as the WVU CED. These combined reductions threaten to significantly diminish the services, advocacy, and representation available to our disability community.

West Virginia is a small state with the highest per capita rate of individuals with disabilities in the nation—one in three residents. We already face unique challenges in ensuring access, protection, and support for these individuals. The collective impact of cutting both protection and advocacy funding and UCEDD resources would be a devastating blow to our capacity to serve and advocate for this vulnerable population.

This is a critical time to support, not diminish, our efforts to provide accessible healthcare, housing, voting rights, and safeguards against abuse and neglect. The proposed cuts threaten to weaken our safety net and reduce the voices of individuals with disabilities in our state.

I strongly urge you to oppose these reductions and support maintaining or increasing funding for these essential programs. Protecting the rights and well-being of people with disabilities in West Virginia is not only a moral obligation but vital for our community's strength and inclusiveness.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I am happy to discuss further or provide additional information.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]