

Federal Actions:

THE REAL IMPACT ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



In theory, Federal actions aren't intended to harm people with disabilities. In practice, many recent actions put them at risk. These are the real impacts.

MEDICAID CUTS

The "Big Beautiful Bill" (H.R. 1) cut nearly \$1 TRILLION from the federal Medicaid budget over the next 10 years.

THEORY VS PRACTICE

In Theory: Reductions in the Medicaid budget are not cuts to disability services or other critical programs. They are savings from eliminating waste, fraud and abuse in the Medicaid System.



The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that addressing waste, fraud and abuse will account for **less than 3%** of the total cuts to Medicaid. The other 97% will come from policy changes that shrink Medicaid programs, shift costs to states, and cause millions of people to lose coverage.

The supports and services people with intellectual and developmental disabilities rely on are funded by Medicaid. We advocate every year to secure funding in the New York state Medicaid budget. Federal cuts will reduce funding in New York by at least **\$8 Billion** every year.

Disability services haven't been cut directly, but they WILL undoubtedly be impacted by devastating cuts to the resources that sustain them.

MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY

More stringent requirements for Medicaid eligibility include more frequent recertification, proof of work, or "community engagement."

THEORY VS PRACTICE

In Theory: People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are exempt from community engagement and work requirements. They will not lose Medicaid coverage.



People must prove they are exempt from the work requirement every time they renew their Medicaid coverage. Recertification is now required every six months, instead of annually. This creates a significant administrative burden for providers and beneficiaries, and puts coverage at risk.

People we support, families, and staff who rely on Medicaid are at high risk of experiencing lapses in coverage or disenrollment from Medicaid due to simple processing issues. Some already have.

Historically, around 70% of Medicaid disenrollments have been caused by procedural issues, not ineligibility. Researchers from Georgetown University estimate the new reporting requirements could account for almost **40 percent** of the total cuts, largely from red-tape disenrollment of eligible people.

OLMSTEAD DECISION

The Department of Justice issued an opinion that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not legally require community integration over institutional care.

THEORY VS PRACTICE

In Theory: Nothing has changed. It's just a legal opinion.



The Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* set a precedent for interpretation of the ADA, affirming that institutionalization is discriminatory, and that states are required to support people in the most integrated setting possible. The DOJ opinion challenges the *Olmstead* decision, and argues that the ADA does not include an integration mandate.

As the legal arm of the Executive Branch, the DOJ is responsible for enforcing and defending federal law. Issuing this opinion signaled that they do not intend to enforce or defend the integration mandate. This opinion opened the door to legal challenges to the *Olmstead* precedent, and the fundamental civil right of people with disabilities to live in their communities.

TPS DECISION

The Supreme Court allowed the administration to terminate Temporary Protected Status for Haitian and Syrian Refugees.

In Theory: This isn't a disability issue.



The people losing their TPS status are active members of their community. Some provide care and support for people with disabilities.

These skilled staff members have built relationships and trust, and developed an understanding of complex individual care needs. Loss of staff can be devastating to the people and families they support, and disruptive to their continuity of care.

Providers are faced with sudden vacancies in critical direct care and nursing positions they are already struggling to fill.

EDUCATION MOVES

Administration of the Offices of Civil Rights and Special Ed was moved out of Education Department to the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services.

In Theory: The moves improve efficiency and preserve function.



These moves separate the two agencies that work together to ensure appropriate educational services and legal protection for students with disabilities.

While the moves aim to improve efficiency, they're likely to hinder effectiveness in enforcing students' educational rights.

Working across agencies will be less coordinated and accessible for families. Effective oversight must be cohesive, and conducted with educational expertise. .