**Criminal Justice**

Plain Language Talking Points

**NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION**

**What is the problem**

* Too many people with disabilities are harmed or killed when they interact with police.
* Police and other people like security officers, people who work in the courts, or in jails or prisons do not understand people with disabilities.
* They must be trained to understand different disabilities. They should learn to be more understanding of the ways people with disabilities communicate and learn to help them without harm.
* We don’t know enough about how many people with disabilities are harmed or killed by police. We should collect more information.
* When people with disabilities are also Black, brown, or members of other groups, they are even more likely to be hurt or killed.

**Why it matters to me**

* I/we should be able to feel safe when we talk to the police.
* There should be a phone number people can call when they need help with a mental health issue or other crisis.
* It is also important that we have a better understanding of the problems people with disabilities have when they talk to the police. We should collect data.

**What should Congress do?**

* Congress should pass legislation to allow police to be trained on how to treat people with different needs without hurting them, to collect data, and to set up a call system for help with mental health or other issues.