

# DISABILITY FUNDING

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## BACKGROUND

It is in the nation's interest to provide adequate funding for programs that support people with disabilities to live independent and self-directed lives in the community. These programs include but are not limited to those authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (the DD Act), Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Assistive Technology Act, Autism CARES Act, Lifespan Respite Care Act, and Kevin and Avonte's Law.

One of Congress' main responsibilities is providing federal agencies with annual funding to pay for the programs they run. This process is called appropriations. Federal agencies use their funding to provide education, employment, housing, family support, research, transportation, and many other important programs. Federal programs provide essential supports and services for people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, including Autistic people, in all aspects of their lives.

## ISSUES

For several years, Congress has failed to provide adequate funding to meet the needs of the disability community. To make matters worse, some members of Congress have threatened to shut down the government if their own policy demands are not met. Others have proposed creating a "Fiscal Commission" that could slash critical programs for the disability community outside of the regular appropriations process.

We are advocating for annual appropriations that fully fund programs important to the disability community including but not limited to programs authorized by the DD Act (DD Councils, Protection and Advocacy and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities), Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Assistive Technology Act, Autism CARES Act, Lifespan Respite Care Act, and Kevin and Avonte's Law.

We oppose arbitrary cuts, sometimes called sequestration, because people with disabilities need certainty that federal programs that provide essential services are available without disruption or delay, and are adequate to meet their needs.

## WHAT SHOULD CONGRESS DO?

Provide adequate funding that supports people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in the community.

Reject legislation to create a Fiscal Commission and work in a bipartisan fashion to pass annual appropriations bills.

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at (202) 387-1968  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities at (301) 588-8252 • Autism Society at (301) 657-0881  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities at (202) 506-5813  
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