



TALKING POINTS - FOR YOUR USE ONLY / NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

HEALTH CARE & LONG TERM SERVICES REFORM

- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities don't want to live in institutions. They want to live in the community so they can work and participate in social activities like everyone else. There are more than 300,000 people on waiting lists with average waits of 8-10 years for home and community based services
- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have problems getting private insurance due to their pre-existing conditions.
- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities often need rehabilitation and habilitation services as well as durable medical equipment (such as wheelchairs and augmentative communication devices), prosthetics, and orthotics.
- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have a great deal of trouble finding a doctor or a dentist because Medicaid doesn't pay doctors and dentists enough and medical and dental schools don't train medical and dental students about how to treat a person with an intellectual or developmental disability.
- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have chronic conditions and need often long term assistance with things like getting dressed, taking medication, preparing meals, and managing money.

Congress should:

- Change Medicaid so that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live in the community instead of in institutions;
- Change the law so that private health insurance companies cannot exclude people because they have pre-existing conditions
- Make sure that any new health plans' benefits include rehabilitation and habilitation services and durable medical equipment (such as wheelchairs and augmentative communication devices) and prosthetics and orthotics.
- Change the law so that doctors and dentists have to learn about treating patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities when they are in medical or dental school;
- Strengthening long-term services and supports by 1) Improving Medicaid by including the Community Choice Act to provide personal care attendants; and 2) Establishing a national voluntary program to finance long-term services and supports by including the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act that will also relieve pressure on the Medicaid program.