**disABILITY LINK - Legislative and Social Policy Report – July 2017**

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| Threats to the rights and independent living of people with disabilities continue – ACHA (in a variety of forms) and the recent budget proposals are the most concerning in a list of concerns.  **Independent Living** -  Funding for Independent Living - $142.4 million decrease in overall funding for the Administration for Community Living (for total funding of $1.85 billion).   * Completely changes Part B (channeled through the state) funding - ‘consolidating’ funding from Part B Independent Living funding ($23 million in the FY 2017 budget), the State Council on Developmental Disabilities ($73 million), and Traumatic Brain Injury funding ($6 million of the $9 million in FY 2017) into one “Partnership for Innovation, Inclusion, and Independence.” * Funding for this new Partnership line item is $45 million, a $57 million loss from the $102 million combined in funding in FY 2017 - the cuts resulting from consolidation would be detrimental to all three programs. * Note, these programs each have distinct statutory requirements * Estimate a 15% to 20% cut in funding from loss of Part B funds for disABILITY LINK – up to 100% loss in funding for some other CILs    $72 billion in cuts to disability programs like Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).   * Part of those cuts would result from efforts to limit eligibility and ‘encourage’ work. * Administration’s efforts are misguided, operating under the assumption that these programs are rampant with people ‘gaming the system’ - however, these programs, particularly SSDI, have strict requirements that must be met and rigorous screenings already in place. * The proposed budget cuts will largely serve to put vital benefits out of reach for even more people with disabilities.    Huge cuts to Medicaid funding, both from the repeal and replace of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and additional cuts to the program.   * Over $1 trillion in Medicaid cuts over the decade from a combination of repealing and replacing the ACA and an estimated $610 billion in additional cuts. * Allowing states to choose between per capita caps or block grants for their Medicaid program for all beneficiaries - block grants make even further cuts than those allowed under the American Health Care Act (AHCA).     Reduced spending on many other programs that people with disabilities rely on - the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), housing, education, research, and much more.  **Conclusion -**  All these proposals will negatively impact the Independent Living Program and people with disabilities in FY 2018 - talk with your [Senators](https://t.e2ma.net/click/fdnnn/37ql8c/nj188c) and [Representatives](https://t.e2ma.net/click/fdnnn/37ql8c/3b288c) - invite them to visit disABILITY LINK, a Center for Independent Living (CIL) to see the invaluable work being done in their communities - make sure they know how important the work of your CIL is to you and the community - Congress needs to hear from constituents now more than ever! |
| **Find your Congressional Representative at** <https://www.contactingcongress.org/>o**r the Congressional switchboard at 202-224-3121**  **Metro Atlanta Congressional Representatives:**   * Drew Ferguson – DC = 202-225-5901 – local = 770-683-2033 * Hank Johnson – DC = 202-225-1605 – local = 770-987-2291 * John Lewis – DC = 202-225-3801 – local = 404-659-0116 * Karen Handel – DC = 202-225-4501 * Rob Woodall – DC = 202-225-4272 – local = 770-232-3005 * Barry Loudermilk – DC = 202-225-2931 – local = 770-429-1776 * David Scott – DC = 202-225-2939 – local = 770-432-5405   **Georgia Senators:**   * Senator Johnny Isakson – DC = 202-224-3643 – local = 770-661-0999 * Senator David Perdue – DC = 202-224-3521 – local = 404-865-0087 |

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