



Statement for the Record

Markup of H. Res. 433 – Resolution of Inquiry Requesting Documents Related to the Proposed Elimination of the Administration for Community Living Submitted by the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

April 29, 2025

Chair Walberg, Ranking Member Scott, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), representing the 56 governor-appointed Developmental Disabilities (DD) Councils across every state and territory, we respectfully submit this statement in support of H. Res. 344, which seeks unredacted information from the Administration related to the proposed elimination of the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and thank Reps. Bonamici, Scott, Wilson, Takano, Hayes, Omar and DeSaulnier for introducing this important resolution that the committee is considering today.

The DD Councils are federally funded, state-based entities created under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) and administered by ACL. DD Councils are tasked with identifying system inefficiencies, engaging state agencies to improve service coordination, and ensuring taxpayer dollars support results-driven programs that help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) live independently, contribute to their communities, and avoid costlier institutional placements. This structure is an example of responsible government investment with strong oversight at both the federal and state levels and proven success record for over fifty years.

We are deeply concerned by the complete lack of transparency surrounding the Administration's proposal to eliminate ACL. A leaked version of this proposal, along with their recent actions to reduce the agency's staff by over 40 percent, shows a troubling misunderstanding of the statutory requirements for agency oversight of DD Act programs and disregards the negative impact these radical changes programs will have on the everyday lives of people with IDD. Without a clear plan and consultation with DD



Act programs across the country, people with IDD and their families who rely on these programs, and ACL leadership and staff currently administering these programs, this kind of reorganization invites—not prevents—confusion, duplication of efforts, and potentially costly disruptions to programs relied on by individuals and state governments to improve the lives of millions of Americans with disabilities.

Accountability is a core principle of the DD Act programs. The ACL’s Administration on Disabilities maintains a robust oversight and technical assistance functions to insure DD programs are in compliance with all federal laws and operate efficiently in carrying out statutory duties to support individuals with developmental disabilities so they can live independently, attain meaningful employment or contribute to their communities, and participate in all aspects of community life, including education, housing, health care, and employment. State Councils use data, performance measures, and routine collaboration with agencies to achieve these goals while identifying waste and promoting efficiency. The proposal to eliminate ACL’s DD Act programs and absorb or dismantle their functions threatens to undo years of progress in aligning services and maximizing the impact of federal dollars. Moreover, failing to engage with the very systems that are already delivering value and oversight undermines efforts to modernize government effectively.

We believe that any restructuring of federal disability programs must be transparent and based on sound analysis—not ideology or short-term cuts. Congress must have the necessary information to evaluate the impact of such changes, particularly on how they would affect the highly coordinated, bipartisan programs under the DD Act: DD Councils, Protection and Advocacy Systems, and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

If programs are to be altered or eliminated, the Administration owes the public, —and Congress—a clear explanation of how existing programs for people with IDD will continue without waste, disruption, or harm to individuals and families. That is the essence of good governance and responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources.



For these reasons, we support H. Res. 344 as a commonsense oversight measure. We urge Members of this Committee to vote in favor of the resolution and ensure that any proposed changes to ACL or DD Act programs are fully understood, transparent, and guided by facts—not assumptions. We urge HHS leadership to come to the table and openly share information so that we can find a resolution together.

Respectfully submitted,

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)

Erin Prangle, Director, Policy

eprangle@nacdd.org