

Many Voices / One Vision



The Honorable June Robinson, Chair
Members, Senate Ways and Means Committee
303 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40423
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Timm Ormsby, Chair
Members, House Appropriations Committee
315 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

April 7, 2025

Dear Senator Robinson and Representative Ormsby and Committee Members,

The Community Advocacy Coalition for Developmental Disabilities (CAC) is asking you to keep the promise: Please consolidate state institutions for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and continue growing community services so folks with IDD can thrive.

We support HB 1472 and SB 5393 - Closing the Yakima Valley school and Rainier school.

- People will not lose access to intermediate care facilities for people with intellectual disabilities. Those will continue at both [Fircrest](#) and [Lakeland Village](#).
- Nor will they lose access to skilled nursing care for people with IDD. Those will also continue at Fircrest and Lakeland Village.
- By statute, overnight and short-term respite care (up to 30 days) will continue at Yakima Valley.

We support investments in helping people transition to community from institutional settings. These services are [in place now](#) – and many people with IDD have tapped them to transition safely out of institutional settings, including 6 years ago when the [federal government de-certified and pulled Medicaid funding](#) from Rainier.

It is critical that adequate services are provided in community settings. Those of us with the most complex needs can and are supported successfully in the community. All relevant research supports the fact that community settings result in improved quality of life in areas such as: integration, social participation, employment, choice-making and self-determination, quality and duration of services, contact with friends and relatives, and other indicators of quality of life.

OUR [PRIORITIES](#) THIS SESSION

- Stabilize the community workforce so people can access their services:
 - Increase rates for Supported Living community residential services
 - Increase rates for community day respite services
- Invest in housing
- End isolation/seclusion in public schools
- Ensure vulnerable populations can access DDA community services
- Continue to phase out institutions and invest in community-based services.

WHO WE ARE:

The [Community Advocacy Coalition for Developmental Disabilities](#) (CAC) is a statewide coalition of dozens of nonprofit advocacy organizations and provider businesses working to ensure people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (IDD) have access to life in the community.

Sincerely,

Ramona Hattendorf & Eric Matthes, CAC co-chairs, and our representative organizations:

Adult Family Home Council
Allies in Advocacy
AtWork!
Bridge of Promise
Center for Independence
Community Employment Alliance (CEA)
Community Living
Community Residential Services
Association (CRSA)
Foundation For The Challenged,
dba Options for Supported Housing
Hispanic Disability Support SWWA
(Pasitos Gigantes)
Kinderling
Kitsap County Parent Coalition
Kittitas County Parent Coalition
Life Enrichment Options
Max Higbee Center
Northwest Center
Office of Developmental Disabilities
Ombuds
Olympic Neighbors
Open Doors for Multicultural Families
Parkview Services
Partner4Housing
PAVE & P2P Pierce County
PEACE NW
People First of Washington
Pierce County Coalition for DD
Pollowitz Property Group
PROVAIL

Puget Sound Regional Services
SafeinHome
Self Advocates in Leadership (SAIL)
Special Olympics Washington
Tavon Learning Center
The Arc Grays Harbor
The Arc of King County
The Arc of Snohomish County
The Arc of Spokane
The Arc Tri-Cities /
Benton Franklin Parent Coalition
The Arc of Washington State
The Arc of Whatcom County
Thurston Mason Developmental
Disabilities Coalition
Walla Walla Valley Disability Network /
Walla Walla Parent to Parent
Washington Multicultural Services Link
Washington Parent to Parent
Washington State Developmental
Disabilities Council
Washington Statewide Parent Coalitions
WeeCare
Wise
Work Opportunities