



# Speak Up for UCEDDs!

Email Messaging



Email 1

## E-Mail Your Elected Representatives

AUCD Network: [\[LINK\]](#) to email script

General Advocate: [\[LINK\]](#) to email script

**Subject:** Speak Up for UCEDDs!

**Preheader:** UCEDDs are in trouble. And we need you to speak up!

**Headline:** UCEDDs have been advancing disability rights for over 60 years.

**Subhead:** And now, we need to speak up to save them!

The Association of University Centers for Disabilities (AUCD) is calling on its community to help share why keeping University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) independent is important for the disability community.

If you are a part of the AUCD Network or a community advocate, we need your voice to tell Congress that eliminating UCEDDs will be harmful to the disability community and states. It's also against established federal law.

Here's what you need to know.

## What's going on?

The Administration's FY26 budget proposal calls for the elimination of UCEDDs as independent programs. In the budget, it folds the UCEDDs and four other unique programs into the Independent Living (IL) program under a single, broad budget.

This will have a dire impact on the disability population. UCEDDs have been supporting people with disabilities for over 60 years through research, training, and community services. Our independence has allowed us to work efficiently and effectively with other Independent Living programs, State DD Councils, local, state, and federal partners to advance services and supports and families.

The Administration's FY26 budget proposal risks dismantling this essential infrastructure.

Combining these programs will make these systems inefficient, directly conflict with federal law, and result in immense nationwide harm for people with disabilities, research institutions, and the disability workforce.

## Why is this bad for the disability community?

1. **This proposal goes against established disability law.** By the DD Act, the UCEDDs were purposely housed in universities to bring together research, academics, and the community to advance disability rights, services, and supports.
2. **This proposal is bad for all programs involved.** The bill calls for eliminating and then folding its budget along with Projects of National Significance (PNS), Limb Loss Resource Center, Paralysis Resource Center, and the Voting Access for People with Disabilities Program under one budget. The funding would then become a block grant. This is bad for UCEDDs and would cause a breakdown in effectiveness and impact for the disability community. Learn more about them [here](#).
3. **This proposal is bad for states.** This proposal would effectively provide block-grant funding to states without clear guidance, governance, or accountability mechanisms. This means that our work will be jeopardized and impact will be felt across the community.

## What can we do about it?

Speak up and spread the word!

UCEDDs are essential for disability research, training, and services. Contact your Senators and Representatives today and urge them to protect UCEDDs!

### Call Your Elected Representatives

For the U.S. Senate, visit <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>  
Find your Senator and tell them why saving UCEDDs are important.

For the U.S. House of Representatives, visit <https://www.house.gov/representatives>  
Find your representatives and tell them why saving UCEDDs are important.

### Talking points can include:

- How have you been impacted by UCEDDs?
- Have you received training or been a part of research initiatives? Tell them!
- Share that these are important independent entities in the community. And they need to stay that way!



# Speak Up for UCEDDs!

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Email 2

## E-Mail Your Elected Representatives

AUCD Network: [\[LINK\]](#) to email script

General Advocate: [\[LINK\]](#) to email script

**Subject:** Speak Up for UCEDDs!

**Preheader:** UCEDDs are in trouble. And we need you to speak up!

**Headline:** UCEDDs have been advancing disability rights for over 60 years.

**Subhead:** And now, we need to speak up to save them!

UCEDDs have been advancing disability rights for over 60 years. Now, they're at risk—and we need your voice.

The FY26 budget proposal would eliminate UCEDDs as independent programs, folding them into a single budget with four other distinct disability programs. This change would dismantle decades of research, training, and services that UCEDDs have built across every U.S. state and territory.

This threatens:

- Services for people with disabilities
- Disability research and training
- State and federal partnerships
- Compliance with the DD Act

We must protect the independence and impact of UCEDDs.

**Contact your Senators and Representatives today and urge them to protect UCEDDs!**

For the U.S. Senate, visit <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>

Find your Senator, call them, and tell them why saving UCEDDs are important.

For the U.S. House of Representatives, visit <https://www.house.gov/representatives>

Find your representatives and tell them why saving UCEDDs are important.

## Talking points can include:

- How have you been impacted by UCEDDs?
- Have you received training or been a part of research initiatives? Tell them!
- Share that these are important independent entities in the community. And they need to stay that way!

Email 3

### **E-Mail Your Elected Representatives**

AUCD Network: [\[LINK\]](#) to email script

General Advocate: [\[LINK\]](#) to email script

Subject: How Minnesota's UCEDD Expanded Access for Rural, Military Families

Preheader: Speak up for UCEDDs!

Headline: Meet Project ECHO

Wait times for intervention services to help military families and those living in geographically dispersed areas who have developmental, emotional, or behavioral health concerns can stretch up to three years. In large states with dispersed populations, long distances to care create even more barriers.

Enter The University of Minnesota's UCEDD. [They launched Project ECHO®](#), a telehealth and tele-mentoring series for practitioners working with highly mobile, rural, and military-connected families based on a model first developed at the University of New Mexico. Read more [here](#).

These are UCEDDs at work.

### **Now, let's speak up for UCEDDs!**

The Administration's FY26 budget proposal calls to eliminate UCEDDs as independent programs. It calls for folding them into a single budget with four other distinct disability programs. This change would dismantle decades of research, training, and services that UCEDDs have built across every U.S. state and territory.

This threatens:

- Services for people with disabilities
- Disability research and training
- State and federal partnerships
- Compliance with the DD Act

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[\[LINK\]](#) Webpage