



CommunicationFIRST

Because communication is a human right.

CommunicationFIRST Statement Opposing Attack on the Administration for Community Living

CommunicationFIRST expresses deep concern and opposition to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)'s [announcement](#) that it intends to cut 20,000 employees and eliminate the Administration for Community Living (ACL). ACL serves a critically important role in the lives of the estimated 5 million Americans with speech-related disabilities by helping ensure we can live in our own homes instead of in institutions, participate in our communities, access appropriate health care, and support our caregivers.

As former Director of the Independent Living Administration at ACL and Commissioner for the U.S. Developmental Disabilities Administration throughout the 1990s, CommunicationFIRST co-founder and Policy Director Bob Williams observed, "Before Congress created ACL, disability and aging services were actually *more* fragmented and *less* effective. Over the last several years, ACL has been key to enhancing the coordination of services and supports for people with disabilities and older adults—with real life results."

Instead of creating efficiencies, this cut would marginalize and disrupt existing disability programs. Dismantling key agencies and programs that serve our community would threaten the well-being of the many in our community who depend on their services.

"The actions the Administration intends to take would move us backward. What is the rationale for doing so?" Mr. Williams asked.

CommunicationFIRST calls on lawmakers, advocates, and stakeholders to stand with us in opposing this announcement, and calling for the protection and integrity of these vital services.

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