

Ask Congress to vote yes on a new bill *immediately* to fund intellectual / developmental disabilities (I/DD) supports during the COVID-19 outbreak. Immediate action is essential as the Senate is moving to advance the bill as soon as this morning.

Today, Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) is introducing a bill to fund the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) program, so that essential lifeline programs for people with I/DD are not compromised during this public health crisis.

The Ask: Use our [email tool](#) to ask your members of Congress to support including this legislation in any new COVID-19 funding package, and to prioritize the key I/DD supports on which people rely.

The Details: Congress is allocating funding to address the COVID-19 outbreak in phases; with the second phase having been passed on March 18, we are shifting attention to the third phase. These phases are:

1. A package largely funding federal agencies' efforts to prevent disease and test the population, which became law on March 6.
2. A package primarily focused on paid leave during the outbreak and free testing passed the House last week and the Senate this week.
3. The Senate is [leading the process](#) of drafting phase 3, which will focus on financial stimulus for affected industries and/or populations. The House is in recess and will likely only return after the Senate has passed the phase 3 bill. We expect the Senate to introduce phase 3 this week. **It is critical for you to tell Congress now that Senator Casey's bill must be included in this new funding package, and to highlight key policies that will strengthen I/DD supports during and after the outbreak.**

The COVID-19 crisis is exposing key vulnerabilities in I/DD supports. As people are asked to stay home as community centers and day programs close to try to limit the spread of COVID-19. In turn, providers of those programs face uncertain futures. When the dust settles and we return to life after the pandemic, will there be any place for people with I/DD to go? We need Congress to ensure the answer is yes.

Please speak up TODAY for Senator Casey's legislation and other key disability priorities, so people with disabilities can have the supports they need, when they need them the most.