

**Centers for Independent Living are in Trouble
due to President's Obama Proposed Budget!!!
Act Now!**

The National Council on Independent Living obtained a copy of President Obama's proposed 2011 Budget and **we are outraged to learn that with the stroke of a pen, the President's Budget proposed to eliminate the current funding mechanisms for Part B and C Centers for Independent Living, and replace them with a new "Grants for Independent Living" program!**

The document claims that the consolidated program would provide grants to each states' government to support the provision of independent living services through CILs, and to hold states accountable.

This is a bad idea! Instead of providing direct funding to CILs, as has been the case since 1992 (and is required by the Rehabilitation Act), this proposal will put all of the money in the hands of state government to spend at their discretion. Those of us who have been with CILs since before 1992 can give horror story after horror story about how this ties the hands of an advocacy organization!!!

Act Now!

1. Call the White House: 202-456-1111! Fortunately, the President's budget proposal is just that – a proposal. This is the President's budget and the White House needs to hear *from the IL community* that we are not happy that the President would propose a budget with negative ramifications for the Independent Living programs in America.

2. Contact both Appropriations Committees! The House and Senate Appropriations Committees in Congress need to know about the proposal for the Independent Living programs, and that we need Congress to send the President a budget that **doesn't reduce the consumer control of the Independent Living programs** and create more bureaucratic hurdles for Centers for Independent Living. Contact the individuals who represent your state and are in a position to stop this problem.

Senate Appropriations Committee: Full Committee

Alabama: Richard Shelby 202-224-5744

Kentucky: Mitch McConnell 202-224-2541

Mississippi: Thad Cochran 202-224-5054

Tennessee: Lamar Alexander 202-224-4944

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and Education

Alabama: Richard Shelby 202-224-5744

Mississippi: Thad Cochran 202-224-5054

Tennessee: Lamar Alexander 202-224-4944

House Appropriations Committee: Full Committee

Alabama: Robert B. Aderholt, 202-225-4876; Jo Bonner: 202-225-4931

Florida: Allen Boyd 202-225-5235; C.W. "Bill" Young, 202-225-5961;

Ander Crenshaw, 202-225-2501; Debbie Wasserman Schultz, 202-225-7931

Georgia: Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., 202-225-3631; Jack Kingston 202-225-5831

Kentucky: Harold Rogers 202-225-0940; Ben Chandler 202-225-4706

North Carolina: David Price 202-225-1784

Tennessee: Zach Wamp 202-225-3271; Lincoln Davis 202-225-6831

House Appropriations Committee on Labor, HHS and Education

Alabama: Jo Bonner 202-225-4931

If you have questions about the President's budget, the budget process, or IL Funding, please call NCIL Policy Analyst Jason Beloungy at 202-207-0334 (toll-free: 1-877-525-3400), ext. 1008. Jason can also be reached by e-mail at jason@ncil.org.