

HEADs UP Act: **People with I/DD deserve healthy lives**

Better health outcomes for people with I/DD

The *Healthcare Extension and Accessibility for Developmentally disabled and Underserved Population Act of 2018*, or HEADs UP Act, would designate people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) as a Medically Underserved Population (MUP) under the Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA). An MUP designation creates eligibility to certain federal grants and also for specific federal resources that would help to target and better support the health needs of the designated population. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) experience poorer health, shortened life expectancies, and lack access to even the most basic forms of care when compared to the non-disabled population. A designation as a MUP would help to close these gaps and achieve better health outcomes for the entire I/DD population. Congress must pass this legislation because:

- **There are few primary care providers and even fewer specialists who are trained to treat the I/DD population.** A person with I/DD would need to contact approximately 50 doctors before finding one with training and experience to treat him or her.
- **Infant mortality rates for the I/DD population also far exceed those of the non-disabled population.** A study of 1,305 infants born from 1990 to 2006 with I/DD showed a mortality rate of 74 per 1,000. The infant mortality rate for the non-disabled population is 5.82 per 1,000 births.
- **Adults with I/DD are experiencing increased longevity.** 2010 Census data estimates that 850,600 individuals with I/DD aged 60 and older live in the community, and this number is expected to double by 2020. It is imperative that there are enough providers to support this growing population.



How Can Congress Help?

U.S. Representatives Seth Moulton (D-MA) and Gregg Harper (R-MS) have introduced the Healthcare Extension and Accessibility for Developmentally disabled and Underserved Population Act of 2018, or HEADs UP Act (H.R. 6611). Members of Congress can help by co-sponsoring and voting for this legislation.

For More Information:

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