

February 4 , 2026

7130 Rutherford Road
Baltimore, Maryland
21244

443.780.1300 *phone*
410.265.7143 *fax*

www.ncianet.org

Founders
Herbert J. Hoelter
(1950-2024)
Dr. Jerome G. Miller
(1931-2015)

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Dear Maryland Legislators,

Hello, my name is **Andrea Harmon**, and I am the mother of Andre Connelly, who is supported by the NCIA.

I am sharing this message because the proposed state budget cuts would directly impact my son and many others with developmental disabilities. These cuts could reduce funding per person and potentially eliminate the one-to-one supports that keep people safe, supported, and able to live full lives within the community.

For my family, these supports are not optional — they are essential. They allow my son to be safe, engaged, and supported with dignity. Without them, my son's quality of life, independence, and well-being would be at risk.

I urge you to protect funding for developmental disability services and to consider the real people behind these decisions. Please do not cut services that individuals and families rely on every day.

Thank you for listening and for standing with families like mine.

Most Sincerely,

Andrea Harmon

February 6, 2026

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Dear Maryland Legislators,

My name is **Cheyetta Johnson** and I am supported by NCIA. I am writing because I am unable to attend Developmental Disabilities Day at the Legislature in person, but I want you to understand how proposed budget cuts affect me and my life.

The supports I receive through NCIA are essential. They help keep me safe, healthy, and supported in my daily life. Without these services, my independence, stability, and well-being would be at risk.

Proposed budget caps that reduce funding for individuals with complex needs would directly impact people like me. These decisions will impact where I live, how I am supported, and whether I can continue to receive the care I need.

"NCIA helps me with many parts of my life. They support me with volunteering and help me look for a job in the community. My staff also help me manage my medications, make a budget, and go shopping. They encourage me to join social activities and remind me to make healthy food choices so I can take care of my insulin needs."

I respectfully ask you to consider the real people behind these budget decisions and to support changes to the Governor's proposed budget that protect essential services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Thank you for taking the time to hear my story and for your service to our community.

Most Sincerely,



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Dear Maryland Legislators,

Hello, my name is **Lisa Kennedy**, and I am the sister of Mark Compitello, who is supported by the NCIA.

I am sharing this message because the proposed state budget cuts would directly impact my brother and many others with developmental disabilities. These cuts could reduce funding per person and potentially eliminate the one-to-one supports that keep people safe, supported, and able to live full lives within the community.

For my family, these supports are not optional — they are essential. They allow my brother to be safe, engaged, and supported with dignity. Without them, my brother's quality of life, independence, and well-being would be at risk.

I urge you to protect funding for developmental disability services and to consider the real people behind these decisions. Please do not cut services that individuals and families rely on every day.

Thank you for listening and for standing with families like mine.

Most Sincerely,

Lisa Kennedy

Changing Lives, One Person at a Time.

February 6, 2026

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Dear Maryland Legislators,

My name is **Mahlon Lancaster** and I am supported by NCIA. I am writing because I am unable to attend Developmental Disabilities Day at the Legislature in person, but I want you to understand how proposed budget cuts affect me and my life.

The supports I receive through NCIA are essential. They help keep me safe, healthy, and supported in my daily life. Without these services, my independence, stability, and well-being would be at risk.

Proposed budget caps that reduce funding for individuals with complex needs would directly impact people like me. These decisions will impact where I live, how I am supported, and whether I can continue to receive the care I need.

“NCIA is great! They take me to my doctor’s appointments and support me in doing activities in the community of my choice. They encourage me to exercise and help me go to the library to read books. My staff also help me decorate my room the way I like it, learn life skills, and cook delicious meals. They support me with volunteering, job readiness, budgeting, shopping and fun activities. I love NCIA because they help me and my brother to become independent.”

I respectfully ask you to consider the real people behind these budget decisions and to support changes to the Governor’s proposed budget that protect essential services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my story and for your service to our community.

Most Sincerely,

Mahlon Lancaster

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Dear Maryland Legislators,

My name is **Robert Hoffman** and I am supported by NCIA. I am writing because I am unable to attend Developmental Disabilities Day at the Legislature in person, but I want you to understand how proposed budget cuts affect me and my life.

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The supports I receive through NCIA are essential. They help keep me safe, healthy, and supported in my daily life. Without these services, my independence, stability, and well-being would be at risk.

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Proposed budget caps that reduce funding for individuals with complex needs would directly impact people like me. These decisions will impact where I live, how I am supported, and whether I can continue to receive the care I need.

“My staff at NCIA help me with meal preparation and laundry, and they help with my ADLs when needed. They also support me with job-readiness skills and provide transportation to doctor’s appointments and to the day program. If I have a problem, I can talk to my staff to get help.”

I respectfully ask you to consider the real people behind these budget decisions and to support changes to the Governor’s proposed budget that protect essential services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Thank you for taking the time to hear my story and for your service to our community.

Most Sincerely,

ROBERT
HOFFMAN

February 11, 2026

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Dear Maryland Legislators,

I am the mother of Missy Blair, a 54-year-old woman with intellectual disabilities.

I am unable to attend DD Day in person but wanted to write in to show my support. Missy has benefited from NCIA and DDA services, and we hope the funding allows them to continue for her and many others.

Here are some of the most important issues that the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council is pushing for, with my full support:

- Support efforts to increase the number of direct support professionals with the knowledge, skill, and ability to provide high-quality support.
- Advocate for laws and policies that ensure people with developmental disabilities have the same rights as other Marylanders.
- Make sure the State budget supports people with disabilities. Advocate for full funding of agencies, departments, services, and programs that are critical for people with disabilities.
- Improve services and supports for people with developmental disabilities.
- Support medical, dental, and behavioral healthcare policies that meet the needs of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

These are just some of the advocacy efforts that ensure my daughter lives her best possible life. I hope with your support, the funding for these necessary services can continue.

Thank you,

Sandra Diggs



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Dear Maryland Legislators,

My name is **Tamira Dobson-Johnson** and I am supported by NCIA. I am writing because I am unable to attend Developmental Disabilities Day at the Legislature in person, but I want you to understand how proposed budget cuts affect me and my life.

The supports I receive through NCIA are essential. They help keep me safe, healthy, and supported in my daily life. Without these services, my independence, stability, and well-being would be at risk.

Proposed budget caps that reduce funding for individuals with complex needs would directly impact people like me. These decisions will impact where I live, how I am supported, and whether I can continue to receive the care I need.

“My NCIA staff assist me with attending school by providing transportation and helping me with my classwork. They also support me in preparing for a job in the community by providing job-readiness training. When I am at home, they help me with my independent living skills. They offer a listening ear when I am upset and help me work toward the outcomes I desire.”

I respectfully ask you to consider the real people behind these budget decisions and to support changes to the Governor’s proposed budget that protect essential services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Thank you for taking the time to hear my story and for your service to our community.

Most Sincerely,
Tamira Dobson-Johnson