

**From:** [Richard Gallo](#)  
**Subject:** ACTION ALERT  
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The federal government is on the brink of cutting the only independent watchdogs that protect people with disabilities.

Tell Congress: Protect P&A funding.

<https://ow.ly/vRW350W7LMc>

# CUTS TO DISABILITY RIGHTS

**PROGRAMS DON'T JUST HURT — THEY KILL.**

The federal government is on the brink of cutting the only independent watchdogs that protect people with disabilities.

**Swipe to understand what's at stake.**

NATIONAL  
**DISABILITY  
RIGHTS** NETWORK



# WHAT ARE P&AS?



The **Protection & Advocacy (P&A)** network was created after tragedy.

In the 1970s, the world got a window view of the abuse and neglect people with disabilities faced in institutions.

Congress said: "**Never again.**"

The P&As became a part of this promise - they are **the watchdogs** that make sure no one suffers in silence.

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RIGHTS** NETWORK



# WHAT DO P&AS DO?



Everyday, Protection & Advocacy organizations:

- Investigate **abuse** and **neglect** claims
- Help people with disabilities access **healthcare, jobs** and **education**
- Ensure laws protecting people with disabilities are enforced
- Prevent crises before they happen, and **intervene with legal advocacy** when they do

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**RIGHTS** NETWORK



# WHY NOW?



**Draft federal budgets, as they stand today,  
would gut P&A capacity.**

**No more unannounced facility visits.**

**No one to investigate abuse.**

**No one to help people fight for their basic rights.**

**This isn't a hypothetical; it's a return to horrors  
we once swore to end.**

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# THE HUMAN COST



**Without the Protection & Advocacy Network, people with disabilities will:**

- Be trapped in **dangerous institutions**
- Be denied medication, services or education
- Face **abuse, neglect** and even **death**

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# TAKE ACTION

**The Protection & Advocacy Network saves lives,  
saves money and strengthens our  
communities.**

**Cutting this funding is dangerous and wrong.**

**Tell Congress now:**

**HANDS OFF DISABILITY SERVICES**



#HandsoffDisabilityServices #ProtectPnAs

Mental Wellness is possible

In unity,

Richard Gallo  
(Pronouns: He/His/Him)  
RG Mental Health Advocacy  
Consulting and Training LLC

2025 Care Fellowship (May to August)

## Caring Across Generations

<https://caringacross.org/>

Peer Voices United-Sacramento

Director

[Sacramento - Peer Voices United](#)

Self-Advocate Speakers Bureau (SASB)

Disability Voices United

[Self-Advocate Speakers | Disability Voices United](#)

Story Stitch Facilitator

Green Card Voices

[Home - Green Card Voices](#)

NAMI Smarts Teacher

NAMI Smarts Advocacy

NAMI California

Adult-Mental Health First Aid USA (MHFA)

National Council for Mental Well Being

Certification October 13, 2023-October 13, 2026

Youth-Mental Health First Aid USA (MHFA)

National Council for Mental Well Being

Certification January 29, 2025-January 29, 2028

Certified California MediCal Peer Support Specialist

CalMESA #MPSS-VSYKTZ

State Ambassador/Bay Area Region Ambassador

ACCESS California, a program of CAL VOICES

[ACCESS California | Mental Health Advocacy | Home](#)

Secretary of the California Association of Peer

Professionals (CAPP):

[Peer Support | California Association of Peer](#)

[Professionals | California](#)

Board member

Cal Voices

[Cal Voices | Peer Support | California](#)

RUN member/Ally (Volunteer)

Residents United Network (RUN)

Housing California

[Residents United Network - Housing California](#)

Miracle Friend (Volunteer)  
Miracle Messages  
<https://www.miraclemessages.org/>