

Dear <<Health LA>>

I am a resident of <<State>>, and I am writing to ask you to speak with Representative <<Name of Representative>> about cosponsoring H.R. 6786, a bill to protect the interests of each resident of intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities in class action lawsuits by federally funded entities involving such residents and in Department of Justice actions that could result in an agreement to move such a resident from that resident's facility.

This bill was recently introduced in the House by Representative Bob Goodlatte (R-VA). It is identical to previous legislation introduced in the 111th Congress as H.R. 1255 and in the 112th Congress as H.R. 2032.

Text of H.R. 6786 is available at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/6786?r=7>

Rep. Goodlatte's bill would require that **before** any federally-financed class action lawsuit against a Medicaid-certified and funded ICF/IID can proceed, residents and guardians must receive notice of the proposed lawsuit and be given a time-limited opportunity to opt-out of the suit if they wish. The notice provision is consistent with that included in Appropriations legislation passed by this body and enacted into law for the past three fiscal years.

Rep. Goodlatte's bill is a zero-cost bill. It is consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, which says that individuals with ID cannot be forced to accept a placement against their will, and the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, the statute that authorizes funds for P&A attorneys, that provides that individuals and their families/guardians are the "primary decisionmakers" regarding the services and supports they receive ([2 U.S.C.15001(c)(3)(2000)].

To cosponsor Rep. Goodlatte's bill, please contact John Coleman, Judiciary Counsel, at 225-1518.

Thank you,

<<Your name>>