



Easter Seals

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March 14, 2016

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Easter Seals, I am writing to ask you to oppose the elimination of the Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) that is currently being considered in the House Ways and Means Committee. Easter Seals partners with local communities to provide its residents with child care, adult day services and other high quality social services through SSBG funds.. The strength of the current program lies in its flexibility to allow state and local governments to determine how best to use the funds to meet local needs. The champions of SSBG have included the leadership from both parties. In past congresses SSBG has had bipartisan support on both the House Ways and Means committee and the Senate Finance Committee. We hope this will be true again.

SSBG is a vital and flexible funding source helping people with disabilities and older adults in a range of ways. The outcome results for SSBG are clear, in 34 states more caseworkers are available to investigate reports of child abuse and because of SSBG 36 states can provide services for victims of domestic violence and victims of elder abuse. It supports services for those adults in jeopardy of entering a nursing home or institution and helps to fill the numerous state and local budget gaps in areas as diverse as senior services, mental health services, and services to people with disabilities. SSBG supports children in need of child care, children and youth who have been abused and neglected, foster youth in need of transitional services, and a range of low income individuals and families. Cutting or further targeting SSBG will inevitably harm vulnerable populations.

We urge you to protect SSBG. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Dexter".

Jennifer Dexter
Assistant Vice President, Government Relations