

Talking points for self-advocates and families around

Senate Bill [906](#)

To find your House Representative click [here](#)

When calling or writing you may refer to this sheet for some assistance.

Thank you for taking the time to reach out to your Legislators and the Governor. Every story matters!

- * I am a person with a disability/family member. **[Explain your own situation]**. I am writing to ask you to **VOTE NO on Senate bill 906 that will be voted on in the House of Representatives on December 16, 2019.**
- * I am/my family member is on the PA waiting list for community-based services/had to wait for (number) years for community services. **[Add what that is/was like for you]** It is unfair that while I/my loved one had to wait/am waiting for community services, I/my family member could have immediately gotten services in a State Center. But that is not what I/my family want. We want community-based services to help my family member/me live and participate in the community.
- * I support PA's move away from institutional care through the closure of State Centers. It is what people with disabilities and families want. And it is the law – the Supreme Court has made clear that people with disabilities have a civil right to live in the community. Approximately 13,000 people are on the PA waiting list for community-based services, even though they could instead get institutional care. Institutional care is more expensive -- on average, 3-4 people on the waitlist (with the same or similar needs as people in the institutions) could be served for the cost that PA is currently paying for the institutionalized care of 1 individual. The community is already serving people with the same level of needs as people in the State Centers. People can lead more meaningful and self-determined lives in the community with home and community-based services.
- * PA lags behind other states. 13 other states and DC have closed all of their institutions, and many states only have one remaining. This is because of the demand for community services over institutional services by people with disabilities and families.
- * **I strongly oppose Senate Bill 906.** These bills would prevent the state from closing institutions as the demand for, and census in, institutional care in PA has been drastically decreasing and from reinvesting that money towards addressing the ever-growing waitlist. This bill will do nothing to address the waitlist and in fact will only make it worse. Requiring the state to continue its substantial and expensive investment in institutions will only lead to longer waitlists.
- * I hope we can count on you to **VOTE NO on Senate Bill 906. Institutions need to close now.**

Resources:

The link to find your Legislators' contact information:

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/index.cfm>

The link to the Governor's office:

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/contact/>

The original closure announcement:

https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/DHS_details.aspx?newsid=406