

Health

Everyone deserves good **healthcare**, including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), because health is an important part of well-being.

ISSUE

People with IDD often have a harder time getting good medical care. Sometimes doctors don't understand their needs and getting the right health services can be hard and expensive. People with IDD haven't been involved in making sure their healthcare needs are met, and that should change.

POSITION

To make sure people with IDD have the high-quality healthcare they deserve:

1. Healthcare should be **accessible**:
 - Health care providers should be prepared to provide care to people with disabilities.
 - People with disabilities should be able to get health care where everyone else gets care.
2. Treatment should be **fair**:
 - People with disabilities should get the same good care as everyone else.
 - Providers and insurance companies should not **discriminate** in health and mental health care or privacy because of a person's disability.
3. Healthcare should be **affordable**:
 - People with disabilities need longer medical appointments than other patients for their care, but insurance companies will pay about the same for short and long visits.
 - Doctors have limited time to schedule long appointments, so people with disabilities wait a long time to get seen. Insurance companies should more fairly cover the costs of the longer appointments people with disabilities need so doctors can see patients with disabilities as often as those without disabilities.
4. People with IDD should be **provided supports to make informed healthcare decisions**:
 - Two types of decision-making supports are:
 - *Supported decision-making*: when a trusted person helps someone make their own decisions. (more common)
 - *Surrogate decision-making*: when someone makes decisions for someone else, based on what they would want or what is in their best interests. (less common)
 - Doctors should know that most people with IDD can make their own choices about their healthcare and be ready to help them learn about their care.

DEFINITIONS OF WORDS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

- DISCRIMINATE:** When someone treats you unfairly because of who you are or how you express yourself.
- HEALTHCARE:** Medical and therapeutic services and treatments to promote well-being.
- INFORMED:** When you understand why you should make a decision, the choices you have, and the likely outcome of your choice.