

Executive Summary

This report shows how the government has harmed disabled people. These actions are not accidents.

The harm comes from:

- slowly removing civil-rights protections
- cutting accessibility programs
- making benefits and care harder to get.
- Long delays, denials, and confusing paperwork are policy choices that cause real suffering.

As protections fade, punishment grows — more detention, policing, involuntary commitment, and institutionalization. These policies "solutions" to social problems. They instead control and punish disabled people. In particular, those who are unhoused, poor, immigrants, Black, or queer.

This pattern follows three strategies:

- **Dismantling:** removing legal protections and enforcement.
- **Punishment:** using policing, surveillance, and institutionalization.
- **Dehumanization:** spreading harmful messages that treat disabled people as burdens.

None of this is new.

Their policies echo past discrimination like:

- the Ugly Laws
- forced sterilization
- mass institutionalization.

History shows that when protections weaken, violence increases.

This report's goal is:

- to name what is happening
- show where the harm comes from
- and reject the idea that policies causing suffering are normal.

It is an indictment of this government.

And it is a call to disabled people and to all of us. We **must** resist, repair, and rebuild systems rooted in care, accountability, and dignity. And it must be led by those most impacted.

Introduction

Disability rights in the United States are at a turning point. Protections that disabled people fought hard for are now being weakened, ignored, or treated like they don't matter. These rights were never freely given, they were won through years of organizing and survival. The current rollbacks are part of a larger political effort that treats disabled people as expendable when fairness and accountability become inconvenient.

History shows this pattern again and again. When political priorities change, disabled people, especially disabled people of color, poor and working-class disabled people, and immigrants are often the first to be pushed aside or treated as problems. Disability is framed not as a normal part of life, but as something to control or hide.

Disability justice has always been connected to racial justice. From early institutions and eugenics programs to segregation and uneven enforcement of the ADA, disabled people have never had guaranteed rights. Even major wins, like the Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision, have faced resistance. Institutionalization and neglect still threaten disabled people today, especially in places with low public investment.

This report places today's moment in that long history. It looks at federal actions through three connected strategies: **Dismantling, Punishment, and Dehumanization**.

These strategies reinforce each other. When protections are removed, it becomes easier to punish disabled people. And when disabled people are portrayed as less valuable, the public is more likely to accept these harms. When care systems are destroyed and rights are treated as optional, disabled people become disposable in policy.

The question is no longer whether disability rights are under attack — they are. The real question is who pays the price when these protections disappear, and whether we will allow history to repeat itself.

Dismantling is not an accident. It is intentional. By closing offices, cutting enforcement budgets, and removing staff, the federal government has made disability rights harder to use in real life. Our rights are slipping away.

Ending DEIA and Accessibility Infrastructure

These programs helped disabled people protect themselves, their rights, and access federal jobs and services. Removing them sends the message that accessibility is no longer required.

We are already seeing the impact. Disabled people are having a harder time getting accommodations, using government websites, and getting or keeping federal jobs. This harm is even worse for disabled people who are also people of color, low-income, rural, or immigrants.

The situation is worse because of big staff cuts in civil-rights offices. Almost half the staff at the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights were removed. About 70% of civil-rights lawyers at the Department of Justice were cut or moved. The Social Security Administration's civil-rights office was shut down completely. Half the equal-employment staff at the FTC and NASA were cut. These cuts make it much harder for the government to investigate discrimination or enforce civil-rights laws.

Department of Homeland Security lost about 150 workers. The government called these offices "non-essential." Fewer protections, less oversight, and fewer ways to report discrimination inside one of the most powerful federal agencies is a big issue for disabled people.

Rolling Back Disparate Impact Protections

In April 2025, the President signed an order that ended the use of "disparate-impact". Disparate-impact protections keep an eye on programs receiving federal money. They make sure programs do not continue discrimination in jobs, schools, housing, health care, and other essential areas. **Discrimination does not have to be intentional to cause unequal outcomes.**

By ending this framework, the government has chosen to ignore the following:

- Delaying federal minimum-staffing rules in nursing homes. This increases the risk of neglect, abuse, and preventable harm for disabled residents and people with chronic illnesses.
- In December 2025, HHS announced it would roll back and delay these standards. Their claim was that it would help rural and Tribal communities. Despite the fact that the delays would weaken accountability.
- CMS finalized the staffing rules in September 2024. It was after decades of evidence showing that low staffing leads to more neglect, medical errors, infections, and preventable hospitalizations.

- Weakening or delaying these rules undermines long-standing advocacy efforts to protect institutionalized disabled people who rely on adequate staffing for safety and dignity.
- Most nursing-home residents depend on Medicaid. Many facilities face financial pressures that encourage cost-cutting.

Instead of addressing these funding problems, delaying staffing standards shifts the burden onto residents. The result is unsafe care conditions, reduced federal oversight, and greater risk for people who already face high levels of vulnerability.

Gutting Civil Rights Enforcement in Education

The government fired workers and cut budgets at the Department of Education (DOE). This weakened the civil rights of students with disabilities. The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) makes sure schools do not treat others different based on:

- disability
- race
- sex
- gender
- national origin.

In March 2025, the Department of Education cut almost half of OCR's staff. OCR can no longer properly do their jobs. Because of these cuts, OCR has struggled to finish investigations on time and provide real oversight.

The government said doing all of this would "empower parents, states, and communities." In reality, they removed federal support and weakened the systems families rely on. With not enough investigators or authority, OCR has become mostly symbolic. Disabled students and their families have less options when their rights are violated.

The Trump administration's proposed budget for 2026 made the situation worse. It called for cutting \$49 million from OCR, which was a 35% drop from its previous \$91 million budget. The government said the cut was meant to move OCR away from Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work. Also, from cases involving transgender students under Title IX. The government framed this as "refocusing" civil-rights enforcement. But, the cut weakened OCR's ability to do their jobs.

Social Security government Cuts and Benefit Delays

The Trump administration's cuts to Social Security Administration (SSA) have made it harder to live. Millions of disabled people need this program. These cuts have slowed down how quickly disability benefits are processed and delivered. SSA doesn't have enough staff to meet the needs of the people. Especially for people living with poverty, chronic illness, and housing instability.

In August 2025, 8.1 million people received Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). 7.3 million received Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Routine tasks have slowed down on purpose. This has created long backlogs, more denials, and long interruptions in benefits.

On November 21, 2025, SSA released a press statement quoting Commissioner Frank J. Bisignano. He thanked President Trump for the opportunity to lead the agency. The statement did not talk about the harm caused by the staffing cuts. It did not talk about the life-threatening consequences of delayed or lost benefits. Losing SSDI or SSI means forces people to choose between basic necessities or go without.

Commissioner Bisignano has tried to make it seem like the harm is not as bad. He did this by sending people to the website if they needed help. He said SSA would expand online tools to "better meet the needs" of people with Social Security numbers. Computer systems cannot replace the human casework needed to review complex disability claims. It cannot make accurate decisions. It cannot support people who lack reliable internet access or digital skills.

Weakening ADA and Fair Housing Act Enforcement

The previous administration weakened the government's ability to investigate housing discrimination by changing rules, cutting budgets, and reducing staff. HUD lost funding for fair-housing enforcement. This means:

- fewer investigations
- longer delays
- fewer consequences for landlords or businesses that discriminate.

Disability is the most common reason for fair-housing complaints. These cuts hurt disabled people the most.

They increase the risk of:

- eviction

- denied accommodations
- inaccessible housing
- being pushed out of communities.

The government also stopped HUD rules protecting transgender and nonbinary people. This adds more risk for disabled people who face gender-based discrimination.

At the same time, the government cut programs that support disabled people experiencing homelessness. This removes key resources just as protections are being weakened. These actions:

- make housing less stable
- increase segregation,
- raise the risk of people being forced into institutions.

Reducing Oversight in Nursing Homes

Delaying federal staffing rules and weakening oversight in nursing homes is harmful. It puts disabled people and people with chronic illnesses at higher risk of neglect, abuse, and preventable harm.

In December 2025, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) said it would delay these rules to help rural and Tribal communities. This delay removes accountability in a system that already has serious staffing and quality-of-care problems.

These staffing rules were finalized in 2024. Decades of evidence showed that low staffing leads to more neglect, medical mistakes, infections, and avoidable hospitalizations.

The risks are even worse because of how nursing homes are funded. Most residents rely on Medicaid. Many facilities face financial pressure to cut costs, often at the expense of care. Instead of fixing these funding problems, the burden is put on residents. It accepts unsafe conditions and reduces federal oversight at a time when stronger protections are needed.

Broadening the gap in accessible communications from government agencies

The Trump administration made government information harder to access. People with disabilities who need clear, timely, and accessible communication. It was made harder in the following ways:

- Stopping live ASL interpretation at White House briefings in January 2025. This cut off an important way Deaf and hard-of-hearing people got information.
- The National Association of the Deaf sued, saying this was discrimination. A judge ordered ASL interpreters to return, but the administration fought the order.
- On March 1, 2025, the President ordered that English become the official U.S. language. This reduced multilingual communication. It harmed disabled immigrants and Deaf people who rely on translated or plain-language materials.
- Another order told agencies to avoid words like “diversity,” “equity,” “accessibility,” and “disability” in public materials. This made it harder for disabled people to find resources or understand their rights.
- Federal health agencies were told to pause all public communication. This blocked important health information many disabled people needed.
- In March 2025, the Department of Justice removed 11 ADA guidance documents from ADA.gov. This created confusion about accessibility rules for both disabled people and businesses.

These actions resulted in communication gaps and weakened systems. Systems that usually help disabled people access essential government information.

Punishment: Policies that actively harm and abuse disabled people through coercion, criminalization, institutionalization, or the denial of basic care and survival needs.

Expanded ICE Detention & Loss of Oversight

Expansion of ICE Detention

- The Trump administration expanded ICE detention while also cutting important oversight. This increased the risk of abuse and medical neglect for disabled immigrants.
- Many detention centers lack basic medical care or disability accommodations.
- Most large detention centers are in the U.S. South, where disability rates are high.
- ICE detention grew from about **39,000 people in January 2025** to **61,000 by August 2025**. There are projections of **over 100,000 by early 2026**.

This rapid growth, combined with less oversight, puts disabled immigrants in greater danger.

Budget Expansion for ICE

- The FY 2026 budget gives ICE **\$11.3 billion** and authorizes over **21,000 staff** to support a mass-removal campaign.
- The government aims to remove **1 million people per year** and maintain **100,000 detention beds**.
- The budget includes:
 - **\$501 million** to expand detention capacity
 - **\$205 million** for transportation and deportations

Disabled immigrants face even higher risks because many already lack:

- health insurance
- English-language access
- and financial stability.

Dismantling Oversight

- Executive Order 14210 ordered major workforce cuts across federal agencies.
- DHS eliminated key oversight offices, including:
 - The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL)
 - The CIS Ombudsman
 - The Immigration Detention Ombudsman
- These offices handled abuse investigations, disability accommodations, and surprise inspections. Without them, detained disabled people have almost no protection.

Real-World Impact

- With oversight gone, detention centers operate with little accountability.
- Disabled immigrants face serious harm, including medical neglect and denial of accommodations.
- For Example: **Rodney Taylor** is a Black disabled man and double amputee held in Georgia. He experienced long delays, poor medical care, and was denied accommodations as oversight systems were dismantled.

Forced into institutions, Criminalizing Homelessness

The Trump administration promoted the forced confinement of unhoused and disabled people by calling it a “public safety” issue. It is instead an issue of providing real care.

A July 2025 order pushed states to use more policing, involuntary commitment, and institutionalization. This would replace “housing first” programs that focus on stability and support. This threatens civil-rights protections from *Olmstead v. L.C.*, which says disabled people have the right to live in the most integrated setting possible.

Public-health experts say these policies ignore decades of evidence. Evidence shows that community-based care works better than forced confinement. Groups like KFF and the ACLU warn that the order takes away disabled people’s dignity and autonomy. It risks bringing back harmful institutional practices. This pattern echoes old “Ugly Laws” that punished disabled people for being seen in public. Even though those laws were repealed, the same harmful ideas continue today.

Medicaid Cuts, Medicaid Work Requirements

Efforts to add Medicaid work requirements and cut funding harm disabled people. It takes away the care people need to stay healthy and live in their communities. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, signed on July 4, 2025, requires many adults to complete 80 hours of work each month. This is to keep Medicaid starting in 2027. The law **cuts more than \$1 trillion from Medicaid**. This forces states to reduce services. It would make Home and Community-Based Services even harder to access. These cuts lead to longer waitlists, fewer caregivers, and more people being pushed into institutions.

The law also **cuts up to \$200 billion from SNAP**, making it harder for disabled people to afford food. These changes could cause millions of people to lose coverage. This is especially true for disabled people and those with chronic health needs. Instead of supporting people, the cuts and work requirements act as punishment. It takes away healthcare and basic supports when people cannot meet strict rules.

SNAP Cuts and Cuts to Healthcare

Deep cuts to Medicaid and food help create even more harm for disabled people. In 2024, **over 1/3rd of all SNAP households included an older adult or a disabled family member.**

Reductions hit disabled communities the hardest. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act **cuts almost \$1 trillion from Medicaid. It also cuts about \$187 billion from SNAP through 2034.** This makes it harder for people to get healthcare and food.

The Urban Institute warns that **almost 3 million young adults could lose SNAP benefits.**

Disabled people and those with chronic health conditions are most at risk. Reporting shows that when SNAP is taken away, people face immediate hunger, worsening health, and even life-threatening situations. Especially for those who need steady nutrition to manage medical conditions. These harms grow during government shutdowns or administrative delays. Cuts to healthcare and food help don't act as reform. They function as punishment:

- Raising barriers
- increasing paperwork
- and causing widespread loss of essential benefits disabled people rely on to survive.

Limiting Mental Health Access

Millions of people are losing access to mental-health care. It is because of policy choices letting insurance companies deny, delay, or limit treatment. In **May 2025**, the Trump administration paused rules that required insurers to explain how they block mental-health claims. Then, the government cut staff and funding at the agency responsible for enforcing mental-health parity. This makes it harder to hold insurers accountable. These actions weaken the protections in the **Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act**. The act allows insurers to treat mental-health and substance-use care as optional instead of essential.

Without strong rules or enforcement, insurers are more likely to deny claims or delay treatment. Many people (especially those with chronic mental-health conditions and disabled people) will not get the care they need. The **2024 Final Parity Rule**, which was meant to

strengthen mental-health coverage, is now stuck in limbo. This is not an accident; it is a policy choice that restores insurers' power to limit mental-health care.

Blocking medical programs for Palestinians

During the ongoing genocide in Gaza, many disabled, injured, and chronically ill Palestinians have been denied medical care. This acts as collective punishment. On **August 16, 2025**, the U.S. stopped issuing visas for sick and injured Palestinians to leave Gaza for life-saving treatment. Groups had used these visas for years to evacuate children and other patients. Gaza's health system is destroyed. Shutting down this pathway has turned treatable injuries into deadly ones.

Genocide is not only mass killing. It also creates mass disability through bombing, starvation, and lack of medical care. Blocking medical visas and supplies makes survival even harder. The Trump administration's actions show they do not value disabled lives. The same logic appears in many U.S. policies. For example, cutting benefits, increasing institutionalization, and limiting healthcare access for disabled people. What is happening in Gaza is connected to the United States. Both are driven by systems that decide whose lives are protected and whose can be sacrificed.

Sending Weapons, Causing Mass Disability

U.S. foreign policy has long contributed to mass death and disability. They do so by sending weapons and military aid into active conflicts. On February 28, 2025, **the Trump administration approved nearly \$3 billion in new weapons for Israel**. This violence has created huge numbers of disabled survivors. By September 2024, about 22,000 Palestinians had lost limbs or suffered permanent injuries. By September 2025 that number had grown to more than 41,800.

Medical supplies like prosthetics, wheelchairs, and crutches have been blocked. This makes treatment almost impossible. Funding weapons while medical aid gets restricted, creates more lifelong disabilities or preventable deaths. Genocide is not only mass killing. It also creates mass disability and destroys the systems people need to survive. Disabled people, especially those injured in war, are treated as disposable.

Dehumanization: discourses, misinformation, and narratives that frame disability as a threat, burden, or defect, allowing for (or sanctioning) violence and neglect

State-Sanctioned Autism Misinformation

The Trump administration spread false information about autism. This increased stigma and made autistic people seem like a problem to eliminate. Instead of a normal part of human diversity. On April 10, 2025, the Health and Human Services Secretary claimed the government would soon “know the cause of the autism epidemic”. They intended to “eliminate those exposures.” On September 22, 2025, President Trump repeated false claims linking autism to acetaminophen use during pregnancy. He also promoted misleading ideas about vaccines. These statements ignored real science and dehumanized autistic people. It treated autism as something dangerous or preventable.

That same day, the White House published an article trying to link acetaminophen to autism. Even though this claim was not supported by research. This official misinformation portrayed autism as a tragedy. It suggested autistic people should not exist. Using the government to spread these ideas, they encouraged the belief that autistic people are flawed or unwanted.

The misinformation continued in public health messaging. On November 19, 2025, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its “Vaccine Safety” webpage. It suggested that vaccines might cause autism, echoing long-debunked claims. Decades of scientific research showing no link between vaccines and autism. These actions weakened trust in public health. It also spread harmful myths that hurt autistic people and their families.

The Resurgence of Eugenic Logic

Eugenics has shaped U.S. policy for over a century. It claims some people are more valuable because of their race, disability, or genetics. This belief was used to justify racist immigration laws, forced sterilization, and the segregation of disabled people. 10's of 1000's of disabled people sterilized without consent.

These ideas still show up today. Trump-era statements and policies echoed eugenic thinking. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. spread harmful claims about autism. He suggested autistic people cannot contribute to society. Federal agencies then announced plans to study the “root causes” of autism. They planned to create a database of autistic people. This raised fears of surveillance and control.

Eugenic ideas also appeared in campaign rhetoric. For example, Trump saying “murderers have bad genes.” This frames social problems as biological flaws. Similar logic shows up in policies that cut benefits, increase institutionalization, criminalize poverty, and remove essential supports. All based on the belief that some lives matter less.

Discouraging COVID-19 Protections

Disabled people have been treated like their lives don't matter. It was obvious when the administration said COVID-19 protections weren't needed. On Trump's 1st day in office, he ended key safety rules like mask requirements and testing for federal workers.

On February 14, 2025, the administration also blocked federal funding for schools that required COVID-19 vaccines. They called these rules “government overreach.” This applied to all schools, from elementary to college.

Removing these protections downplays the real danger of COVID-19. It also weakens systems meant to protect high-risk people. Disabled people, older adults, chronically ill people, and children are left vulnerable during an ongoing pandemic.

Erasing Data on Equity, Health, and Climate

Removing disability and equity data makes it easier for the government to hide harm and harder for the public. Federal agencies weakened systems that track inequality, health outcomes, disability, and environmental risk. Important datasets were removed or hidden. Officials were fired after releasing data the government didn't like.

In August 2025, the DOE proposed ending data on “significant disproportionality.” This tracks racial disparities in special education. This would take away one of the few tools for identifying discrimination against disabled students of color.

Similar patterns appeared in health and climate data. Agencies were told to pause or limit public communication. It cut off information that disabled people and public-health experts rely on.

Data erasure in 2025 worked as a strategy. By removing evidence of harm, the government weakened accountability and protected systems that create inequality.

Framing Accessibility as Wasteful and Unprofessional

On January 20, 2025, Trump ordered all remote work to end. He ordered employees to return to the office. Although the policy exempts disabled workers, many telework accommodation requests have been denied or delayed.

On December 9, 2025, Secretary of State Marco Rubio ordered diplomats to stop using font Calibri. He wanted them to use Times New Roman only. Calibri had been adopted partly for accessibility. Rubio claimed the change would “restore professionalism”. And end what he called a “wasteful DEIA program.” These actions reflect a broader anti-accessibility approach. This attitude makes disabled people’s needs seem illegitimate. It encourages agencies to roll back accommodations. And it normalizes treating accessibility as a burden rather than a legal and ethical responsibility.

What’s Next and Solutions

In the first year of Trump’s second term, the government has worked quickly to undo many protections that helped disabled people. Changes that took decades to build have been rolled back in months. This has weakened civil-rights enforcement, reduced accessibility, and ignored public-health standards. As a result, disabled people face more barriers and greater harm in healthcare, education, employment, and daily life.

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has spread misinformation about autism. He treats it as something to eliminate instead of a normal part of human diversity. In April 2025, he claimed that “autism destroys families”. He also suggested autistic people cannot work or have relationships. These statements are not based on science and echo harmful eugenic ideas. Kennedy has also made racist claims about Black people’s immune systems and vaccine schedules. They are not supported by evidence and are dangerous stereotypes.

Federal agencies announced a plan to search for the “root causes” of autism. They planned to create a database of autistic people on Medicaid and Medicare. Disabled people have a history of being tracked and targeted through government registries. This raises serious concerns about surveillance and misuse of data. It is similar to past eugenic practices that treated disabled people as groups to monitor and control.

These problems go beyond one agency. The government has:

- weakened scientific leadership
- attacked researchers
- cut funding for important public-health work
- and replaced experts with people who support conspiracy theories.

In doing all of this, the administration has damaged the public-health system. This puts disabled people and the broader public at serious risk.

Citations

1. Bonitatibus, S. (2025, July 30). The Trump government's war on disability. Center for American Progress.
<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-trump-governments-war-on-disability/>
2. Kim, E. T. (2025, September 16). Donald Trump's assault on disability rights. *The New Yorker*.
<https://www.newyorker.com/news/deep-state-diaries/donald-trumps-assault-on-disability-rights>
3. *Restoring equality of opportunity and meritocracy*. (2025, April 28). Federal Register.
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/28/2025-07378/restoring-equality-of-opportunity-and-meritocracy>
4. Trump on DEI and Anti-Discrimination Law | American Civil Liberties Union. (2025, January 6). *American Civil Liberties Union*.
<https://www.aclu.org/publications/trump-on-dei-and-anti-discrimination-law>
5. *U.S. Department of Education initiates reduction in force*. (2025, March 11). U.S. Department of Education.
<https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-initiates-reduction-force>
6. The White House. (2025, March 20). *Improving education outcomes by empowering parents, states, and communities*.
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/improving-education-outcomes-by-empowering-parents-states-and-communities/>
7. Office of Management and Budget. (2025). *Appendix: Budget of the U.S. Government, fiscal year 2026*. Executive Office of the President.
8. Bonitatibus, S. (2025, December 16). The Trump government's plans to covertly cut social security disability benefits. *Center for American Progress*.
<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-trump-governments-plans-to-covertly-cut-social-security-disability-benefits/>
9. government, S. S. (2025, October 1). What the federal government shutdown means to your clients. *Social Security*. <https://www.ssa.gov/news/en/advocates/2025-10-01.html>
10. Stanton, A. (2025, December 30). Social Security delayed for millions due to record backlogs: report. *Newsweek*.
<https://www.newsweek.com/social-security-delayed-for-millions-due-to-record-backlogs-report-11286706>
11. The White House. (2025, May 2). *The President's FY 2026 Discretionary Budget Request – OMB – the White House*.
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-resources/budget/the-presidents-fy-2026-discretionary-budget-request/>

12. Coburn, J. (2025, May 15). *How the Trump government Is Weakening the Enforcement of Fair Housing Laws*. ProPublica.
<https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-hud-weakening-enforcement-fair-housing-laws>
13. Tajo, M. (2026, January 21). HUD halts enforcement of rule protecting transgender and nonbinary people from discrimination. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.
<https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-budget/executive-action-watch?item=29752>
14. Romig, K., & O'Connor, D. (2025, October 6). Trump government abruptly cut off highly effective support for disabled people experiencing homelessness. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.
<https://www.cbpp.org/blog/trump-government-abruptly-cut-off-highly-effective-support-for-disabled-people>
15. Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA). (2026, January 15). HHS' Cleanup of Federal Nursing Home Minimum Staffing Standards Rule Expands Access to Rural and Tribal Health Care. *HHS.gov*.
<https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/hhs-cleanup-federal-nursing-home-minimum-staffing-standards-rule-expands-access-rural-tribal-health-care.html>
16. Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Minimum staffing Standards for Long-Term Care Facilities and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting Final Rule (CMS 3442-F) | CMS. (2024, September 9).
<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-minimum-staffing-standards-long-term-care-facilities-and-medicaid-0>
17. Chidambaram, P., Burns, A., Neuman, T., & Rudowitz, R. (2025, August 11). 5 Key facts about nursing facilities and Medicaid. KFF.
<https://www.kff.org/medicaid/5-key-facts-about-nursing-facilities-and-medicaid/>
18. Wright, K. (2025, May 29). The White House is sued over lack of sign language interpreters at press briefings. NPR.
<https://www.npr.org/2025/05/29/nx-s1-5415687/deaf-sign-language-trump-white-house-lawsuit>
19. Federal court orders White House to restore ASL interpreters for presidential and press secretary briefings. (2025, November 5). National Association of the Deaf.
<https://www.nad.org/2025/11/05/federal-court-orders-white-house-to-restore-asl-interpreters-for-presidential-and-press-secretary-briefings/>
20. Heasley, S. (2025, December 19). White House Says ASL Interpreters 'Intrude' On Trump's Ability To Control His Image. Disability Scoop.
<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2025/12/19/white-house-says-asl-interpreters-intrude-on-trumps-ability-to-control-his-image/31785/>
21. The White House. (2025, March 2). Designating English as the official language of the United States.
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/designating-english-as-the-official-language-of-the-united-states/>
22. Yourish, K., Daniel, A., Datar, S., White, I., & Gamio, L. (2025, December 10). The words federal agencies are discouraged from using under Trump. *The New York Times*.

- <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/03/07/us/trump-federal-agencies-websites-words-dei.html>
23. Armour, S. (2025, April 3). Trump's DEI undoing undermines Hard-Won accommodations for disabled people - KFF Health News. KFF Health News.
<https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/trump-dei-executive-order-undermines-disability-accommodations-for-disabled-people/>
 24. Goodman, B., & Tirrell, M. (2025, January 22). Trump government directs federal health agencies to pause communications. CNN.
<https://www.cnn.com/2025/01/21/health/hhs-cdc-fda-trump-pause-communication>
 25. DOJ removes ADA guidance: What employers need to know in 2025. (n.d.).
<https://diversity.com/post/doj-removes-ada-guidance-2025>
 26. Aratani, L. (2025, March 19). Justice department removes disability guidelines for US businesses. *The Guardian*.
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/19/justice-department-disability-business-guidelines>
 27. *Immigration Detention Statistics: A Retrospective and a Look forward*. (n.d.).
<https://tracreports.org/reports/753/>
 28. US Census Bureau. (2023, June 27). *The South had the highest disability rate among regions in 2021*. Census.gov.
<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2023/06/disability-rates-higher-in-rural-areas-than-urban-areas.html>
 29. Migration Policy Institute. (2025, October 29). *U.S. immigrant detention grows to record heights under the Trump government*.
<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/trump-immigrant-detention>
 30. Department of Homeland Security U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. (n.d.). *Budget overview Fiscal year 2026 Congressional justification*.
https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/25_0613_ice_fy26-congressional-budget-justificatin.pdf
 31. Echave, P., & Gonzalez, D. (2025, October 9). *Being an Immigrant with Disabilities*. Urban Institute. <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/being-immigrant-disabilities>
 32. *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative*. (2025, February 14). Federal Register.
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/14/2025-02762/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative>
 33. Pratt, T. (2025, September 25). Petition by man against Ice custody may provide a new path to release for others. *The Guardian*.
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/sep/25/ice-immigration-rodney-taylor-georgia>
 34. The White House. (2025, July 24). *Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets*.
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/07/ending-crime-and-disorder-on-americas-streets/>
 35. Rights, O. F. C. (2025, June 23). *Understanding Olmstead and community integration*. HHS.gov.

- <https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/special-topics/community-living-and-olmstead/serving-people-disabilities-most-integrated-setting.html>
36. Saunders, H., & Rudowitz, R. (2025, August 20). *A look at the new executive order and the intersection of homelessness and mental illness*. KFF.
<https://www.kff.org/mental-health/a-look-at-the-new-executive-order-and-the-intersection-of-homelessness-and-mental-illness/>
 37. ACLU condemns Trump executive order targeting disabled and unhoused people | American Civil Liberties Union. (2025, July 24). *American Civil Liberties Union*.
<https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/aclu-condemns-trump-executive-order-targeting-disabled-and-unhoused-people>
 38. Saunders, H., & Rudowitz, R. (2025, August 20). *A look at the new executive order and the intersection of homelessness and mental illness*. KFF.
<https://www.kff.org/mental-health/a-look-at-the-new-executive-order-and-the-intersection-of-homelessness-and-mental-illness/>
 39. Thompson, D. (2011). Ugly Laws: The history of disability regulation in North America. In *Progress*. <https://www.ambest.com/directories/bestconnect/DeeGeeArticle.pdf>
 40. Legal Defense Fund. (2025, October 24). *President Trump's "One big beautiful bill act," explained*.
<https://www.naacpldf.org/case-issue/trumps-one-big-beautiful-bill-act-explained/>
 41. Coleman, A., & Federman, S. (2025). Work requirements for Medicaid enrollees. *The Commonwealth Fund Website*. <https://doi.org/10.26099/ccxk-9682>
 42. Serbin, B. (2025, July 3). \$1 trillion in Medicaid cuts—\$1 trillion in tax giveaways for the richest 1 percent: the one big 'Beautiful' bill's budget math. *Center for American Progress*.
<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/1-trillion-in-medicaid-cuts-1-trillion-in-tax-giveaways-for-the-richest-1-percent-the-one-big-beautiful-bills-budget-math/>
 43. Coffey, A., & Hahn, H. (2025, August 7). *Medicaid cuts in the one Big Beautiful Bill Act leave 3 in 10 young adults vulnerable to losing health care access*. Urban Institute.
<https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/medicaid-cuts-one-big-beautiful-bill-act-leave-3-10-young-adults-vulnerable-losing>
 44. Nchako, C. (2025). A Closer Look at Who Benefits from SNAP: State-by-State Fact Sheets. *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*.
<https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets#Texas>
 45. Bergh, K. (2025). By the Numbers: Harmful Republican Megabill Takes Food Assistance Away From Millions of People. *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*.
<https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/by-the-numbers-harmful-republican-megabill-takes-food-assistance-away-from>
 46. Coffey, A., & Hahn, H. (2025, August 7). *Medicaid cuts in the one Big Beautiful Bill Act leave 3 in 10 young adults vulnerable to losing health care access*. Urban Institute.
<https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/medicaid-cuts-one-big-beautiful-bill-act-leave-3-10-young-adults-vulnerable-losing>
 47. Todd, S. (2025, October 27). When SNAP benefits run out, 'people can die,' say health experts. *STAT*.

- <https://www.statnews.com/2025/10/27/snap-benefits-cut-off-nov-1-government-shutdown/>
48. Nnpa. (2025, December 6). Trump rollbacks put mental health coverage at risk nationwide. *The Sacramento Observer*.
<https://sacobserver.com/2025/08/trump-rollbacks-put-mental-health-coverage-at-risk-nationwide/>
 49. *The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) | CMS*. (n.d.).
<https://www.cms.gov/marketplace/private-health-insurance/mental-health-parity-addiction-equity>
 50. The Associated Press. (2025, August 17). Trump government halts visas for people from Gaza after videos circulate. *NBC4 Washington*.
<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/national-international/trump-government-halts-visas-gaza/3976237/>
 51. Madhira, N., & Madhira, N. (2025, August 28). *U.S. halts visitor visas for Palestinian medical evacuees*. Prism.
<https://prismreports.org/2025/08/28/palestinian-medical-evacuees-us-visas/>
 52. Stone, M. (2025, February 28). Amid truce concerns, US plans emergency \$3 billion Israel arms deals. *Reuters*.
<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-state-dept-okays-potential-sale-munitions-israel-estimated-27-bln-2025-02-28/>
 53. *Over 22,500 have suffered 'life-changing injuries' in Gaza: WHO*. (2024, September 12). UN News. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154241>
 54. *Dr. Rik Peeperkorn (WHO) on the health situation in Gaza - Press Conference*. (2025, October 2). [Video]. UN News. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/10/1166023>
 55. *Injuries and amputation during the Gaza genocide*. (n.d.). Institute for Palestine Studies. <https://www.palestine-studies.org/en/node/1657205>
 56. *Trump and Kennedy spouting dangerous autism misinformation - Autistic self advocacy network*. (2025, April 10). Autistic Self Advocacy Network.
<https://autisticadvocacy.org/2025/04/trump-and-kennedy-spouting-dangerous-autism-misinformation/>
 57. Brangham, W., & Cuevas, K. (2025, September 23). Health experts respond to Trump's claims linking autism to acetaminophen. *PBS News*.
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/health-experts-respond-to-trumps-claims-linking-autism-to-acetaminophen>
 58. The White House. (2025, September 22). FACT: Evidence suggests link between acetaminophen, autism.
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/09/fact-evidence-suggests-link-between-acetaminophen-autism/>
 59. *Autism and vaccines*. (2025, November 19). Vaccine Safety.
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccine-safety/about/autism.html>
 60. Stein, R. (2025, November 20). The CDC revives debunked "link" between childhood vaccines and autism. *NPR*.
<https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/11/20/nx-s1-5615040/cdc-rfk-childhood-vaccines-autism>

61. *Eugenics and scientific racism*. (n.d.). Genome.gov.
<https://www.genome.gov/about-genomics/fact-sheets/Eugenics-and-Scientific-Racism>
62. Jones, Maya, *Forgotten History of Forced Sterilization in the U.S. against Minorities, Incarcerated, Mentally and Physically Disabled Individuals: Stressing on African American Women in Prisons* (May 01, 2023). Available at SSRN:
<https://ssrn.com/abstract=5147865> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5147865>
63. Seitz, A. (2025, April 17). *Kennedy promises exhaustive studies to identify any environmental factors that may cause autism* | AP News. AP News.
<https://apnews.com/article/robert-kennedy-autism-cases-health-secretary-ca210c5c37e12d6377a1af16ae4f4fbc>
64. Aboulenein, A., & Roy, S. (2025, May 7). Kennedy launches US autism project using Medicare and Medicaid data. *Reuters*.
<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/nih-cms-partner-unders-tand-autism-with-medicare-medicaid-data-2025-05-07/>
65. Martin, E. (2024, October 7). Trump on immigrants: 'We got a lot of bad genes in our country right now.' POLITICO.
<https://www.politico.com/news/2024/10/07/trump-immigrants-crime-00182702>
66. The White House. (2025, January 21). *Initial rescissions of harmful executive orders and actions*.
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/initial-rescissions-of-harmful-executive-orders-and-actions/>
67. The White House. (2025, February 15). *Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump prohibits federal funding for COVID-19 vaccine mandates in schools*.
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/02/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-prohibits-federal-funding-for-covid-19-vaccine-mandates-in-schools/>
68. Pillai, D., Hill, L., & Artiga, S. (2025, September 23). *Disappearing Federal Data: Implications for addressing health disparities*. KFF.
<https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/disappearing-federal-data-implications-for-addressing-health-disparities/>
69. *White House on defense over President Trump's firing of official responsible for jobs data*. (2025, August 14). [Video]. NBC News.
<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-reshaping-government-data-rcna222900>
70. Mangal, C. (2025, September 9). *August 2025 Policy News Round-Up*. National Center for Learning Disabilities. <https://nclld.org/august-2025-policy-news-round-up/>
71. Goodman, B., & Tirrell, M. (2025, January 22). Trump government directs federal health agencies to pause communications. *CNN*.
<https://www.cnn.com/2025/01/21/health/hhs-cdc-fda-trump-pause-communication>
72. *Return to In-Person work*. (2025, January 28). Federal Register.
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/28/2025-01907/return-to-in-person-work>
73. Newhouse, S. M. (2026, January 8). *Trump's return-to-office mandate exempted feds with disabilities. Many are being ordered to work in-person anyway*. Government Executive.

<https://www.govexec.com/workforce/2026/01/trumps-return-office-mandate-exempted-feds-disabilities-many-are-being-ordered-work-person-anyway/410524/>

74. Pamuk, H. (2025, December 9). Rubio stages font coup: Times New Roman ousts Calibri. *Reuters*.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/rubio-stages-font-coup-times-new-roman-ousts-calibri-2025-12-09/>