

HELP US STOP SENATE BILL #906 AND HOUSE BILL # 1918

The PA Senate and House have introduced bills that call for a moratorium on closing any of Pennsylvania's State Centers. We need your help to make sure that our legislators and Governor Wolf know that people with disabilities and families in PA want funding for community services, not institutions!



PA Senate Bill #906 and House Bill #1918 will be coming up for a vote soon. We need to tell our state legislators to VOTE NO because:

- ◆ The more than 700 people who are in Pennsylvania's State Centers would remain there instead of having the opportunity to move to the community
- ◆ Funding that could be used to address the needs of the approximately 13,000 people on Pennsylvania's waiting lists for community services would remain tied up in expensive institutional care, even as institutional census goes down
- ◆ Pennsylvania already lags behind the many other states that have closed all of their state institutions and instead invested in community services
- ◆ People with disabilities and their families want PA to invest in community services, not in institutions!

**Call or write your legislators and the Governor and tell them to:
VOTE NO ON SENATE BILL 906 AND SENATE BILL 1918**



Need help? Attached are talking points you can use for a letter or to call and a guide for self-advocates.

You can find your PA State Senator and State Representative's contact info [here](#). Governor Wolf's contact info is [here](#).

For more information on the closure announcements (including an FAQ), the impact of these bills, and the PA Coalition for Inclusive Community, see [here](#).

Talking points for self-advocates and families around
[House Bill 1918](#) and [Senate Bill 906](#)

To find your Legislators click [here](#) For the Governor's office click [here](#)



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

- ◆ 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 and House Bill 1918.
- ◆ 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 and House Bill 1918.** 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 and House Bill 1918. Institutions need to close now**

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

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



Self-Advocate sample guide to add your story for
#CommunityStrongPA calls with PA Legislators

Hello, my name is _____.

I live in _____. (City or County)

I have an intellectual disability/a developmental disability/Autism.

I like living in the community with my friends and family and I want to stay living in the community.

OR

I am waiting for services and supports because I want to live in the community with my friends and family. I know I could live at an institution like Polk or White Haven, but I do not want to do that. So, I am waiting for services and supports in my community.

Please support community living for all people. Please vote NO on Senate Bill 906 or House Bill 1918. Institutions need to close NOW. Thank you.