

Consumer Directed Services Funding Day of Action Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Dear Advocate,

Your advocacy is needed [this Wednesday February 3rd](#)!

The Missouri House Budget Committee is busy developing our state's FY2022 budget and we must let them know how important the Consumer Directed Services (CDS) and other personal care programs are to Missourians with disabilities.

We are asking Advocates across the state to reach out to House Budget Chair Smith and Vice-Chair Deaton to ask them to include additional funding for CDS providers so Missourians with disabilities and seniors can continue to receive quality personal care services in their own homes and their attendants can receive a living wage for the critical work they do.

Here is how you can reach the legislators making these important budget decisions:

Committee Member Name	Twitter	Phone	Email
Rep. Cody Smith (R) - Chair	@cody4mo	573-751-5458	Cody.Smith@house.mo.gov
Rep. Dirk Deaton (R) - Vice-Chair	@dirkedeaton	573-751-9801	Dirk.Deaton@house.mo.gov

Here are some sample messages you can use:

Sample Tweet – Consumer:

I use CDS to live in my community. My attendant helps me _____, _____, & _____. Without them I would not be able to live in my own home or work, and my attendant deserves a living wage. Please increase provider rates.

Sample Tweet – Attendant:

I am an attendant through CDS. I help the individual I work for _____, _____, & _____. I love my job, but I could make more money working less hours at target. Please increase provider rates so I can earn a living wage.

Sample Tweet – Loved One:

Someone I love uses CDS to live independently in their home. I worry about their health & safety if they do not have access to these services. I can not quit my job to help them; please increase the provider rates so they can live in their home.

Sample Email/Phone Script – Consumer:

Good afternoon, Representative:

My name is _____ and I live in _____. I am a person with _____ disability and I use Consumer Directed Services to live in my home and participate in my community. Without CDS I would not be able to be independent, and I would have to live in a nursing home, which I do not want to do. Please increase the provider rate so that I can continue to live independently. As minimum wage continues to increase it makes it harder for me to keep attendants, as they can earn more money working at Target or Walmart. Please increase the provider rate so that I can continue to receive CDS, live in my home, and pay attendants a living wage.

Warmly,

Sample Email/Phone Script – Attendant

Good afternoon, Representative:

My name is _____ and I live in _____. I am a personal care attendant for a person with a significant disability. I assist them with activities of daily living such as using the restroom, bathing, getting dressed and eating meals, among other things. Without personal care attendant services the individual I assist would not be able to live in the community. It is crucial that the provider rate is increased so attendants can be paid a living wage.

Warmly,

Sample Email/Phone Script – Loved One

Good afternoon, Representative:

My name is _____ and I live in _____. My loved one has a significant disability uses Consumer Directed Services to live independently in the community. I can not afford to quit my job to help them if they do not have an attendant. Please increase the provider rate so that my loved one is able to pay a living wage and continue living in the community.

Warmly,

Missourians with disabilities want to remain independent in their own homes and our state lawmakers need to prioritize this funding. Let them know how you feel!

If you need any additional information or have questions please contact Sarah Schwegel at Paraquad (314-289-4277 or sschwegel@paraquad.org).