

OASIS · AT A GLANCE

Five bills every Michigan disability family should track

Four federal bills and one state budget fight. Each one has a bill number, a committee, and a person whose job includes answering your email about it.

PILLARS: WHERE · WHEN | COMPANION TO BLOG POST B158 | 2-PAGE BRIEF

5

BILLS TO TRACK

Four in Congress, one in the Michigan budget.

How a bill actually moves

NUMBER, COMMITTEE, CONTACT

STAGE 1

A bill gets introduced

It receives a number, a sponsor, and a committee referral. Most bills never move past this point.

→

STAGE 2

A committee acts, or does not

The Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act reached committee action. The others are waiting.

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STAGE 3

Constituents decide the pace

Committee chairs move bills that generate constituent contact from members' districts. That is the whole mechanism.

The five, with their numbers

FEDERAL AND STATE

What each one would do

If you only send one email, send it about the job code. A temporary match funds two years. A permanent occupational classification changes what every future argument can prove.

BILL	NUMBER	WHAT IT DOES
HCBS Relief Act	S. 2076 / H.R. 4029	10 point federal match increase for HCBS, 2026 and 2027
DSP classification	S. 3211 / H.R. 6137	A standard occupational classification for direct support professionals
Credit for Caring	S. 925 / H.R. 2036	Up to a \$5,000 federal tax credit for working family caregivers
HEADs UP Act	H.R. 3409	Designates people with IDD a Medically Underserved Population
Michigan budget	FY 2026-27	The direct care worker wage line, reappropriated every year
The ask that differs	State only	Permanent statute rather than an annual appropriation

\$5,000

The Credit for Caring maximum

Bipartisan, reintroduced repeatedly across Congresses, never enacted.

\$182.2

Million: Michigan FY27 wage need

Against an overall gap of \$305.0 million in the state budget.

2025

HEADs UP reintroduced May 14

By Representatives Moulton, Fitzpatrick, Morelle, and Dingell.

THE REPLY THAT WAS WORTH KEEPING

“

Curtis emailed his congressman about H.R. 4029 and got back a form letter that did not mention the bill. He replied asking specifically whether the member supported it. Six weeks later a staffer called, because the office had logged four contacts on that bill from the district.

YOU ARE NOT ONE VOICE. YOU ARE ONE TALLY MARK, AND THEY COUNT.

THE TAKEAWAY

TURN THE PAGE

Offices sort constituent mail by bill number and count it. An email titled "Constituent asking about H.R. 4029" gets tallied against that bill. An email titled "please help disabled people" does not.

How to write one that gets counted, who to send it to, and what to do with a form letter.

Sending one email that gets counted

NUMBER IN THE SUBJECT LINE

WRITE

What the email contains

☐ The bill number in the subject line

☐ That you are a constituent, and your town

☐ Two sentences about your adult child

☐ One specific ask, not a general appeal

☐ A request for the member’s position in writing

SEND

Where each one goes

☐ U.S. Representative for House bills

☐ Both U.S. Senators for Senate bills

☐ State rep and state senator for the budget

☐ The committee, if your member sits on it

☐ Copy your local disability organization

FOLLOW

When a form letter comes back

☐ Reply and ask the question again

☐ The second contact is what gets a real answer

☐ Almost nobody sends it

☐ Give it three weeks, then follow up

☐ Post a non-answer publicly if it stays a non-answer

TRACK

Every spring, in Michigan

☐ Watch the direct care worker wage line

☐ Not the total health and human services number

☐ The FY27 need is \$182.2 million

☐ The overall gap is \$305.0 million

☐ Ask for permanent statute, not appropriation

BRING ONE PAGE, NOT A BINDER

The constituent email

01

Subject

Constituent asking about [bill number].

02

Line one

Your name, your town, and that you are a constituent.

03

Lines two and three

Your adult child, their age, and what they need.

04

The ask

The member’s position on the bill, in writing.

YOUR MOVE

From one email to a recorded position

1

Pick one bill

The one that matches your family.

2

Number in subject

So the office tallies it correctly.

3

Two sentences

About your adult child, with their age.

4

Ask for a position

In writing, not a thank you.

5

Follow up once

Three weeks later, same question.

Committee chairs move bills that generate district contact. The barrier to mattering is one email, and almost nobody clears it.

SOURCES

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