



State of Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities

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Representative Mark Green
1314 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4908

Dear Representative Green:

The Council on Physical Disabilities opposes the President's plan to eliminate the Section 811 housing program.

The administration intends to cut the overall housing budget for people with disabilities almost in half, from \$238 million to \$120 million. It also proposes to end Section 811 financing of new housing that is accessible to people with disabilities.

These cuts run contrary to national trends and common sense. Many people with disabilities now living in institutions express a desire to live as independently as possible in the community. Our experience here in Wisconsin clearly shows that community living is less expensive for consumers and taxpayers. But how can people have community choices if there is no accessible housing for them in the first place?

President Bush, in his Executive Order on the Olmstead decision, said America is "committed to community-based alternatives for individuals with disabilities and recognizes that such services advance the best interests of Americans." He then directed the federal government to focus on "removing barriers that impede opportunities for community placement."

The Council wholeheartedly agrees with that vision. That is why we urge you to oppose cuts to the Section 811 housing program.

Sincerely,

JorJan Borlin
Chairperson