

TELL YOUR SENATOR TO VOTE NO ON JEFF SESSIONS AND TOM PRICE

President Trump has nominated Senator Jeff Sessions to be United States Attorney General. The Attorney General heads the Justice Department, which plays a critical role in enforcing non-discrimination laws that protect people with disabilities. Mr. Sessions' long history of opposing key protections for people with disabilities suggests that under his leadership, the Justice Department would not vigorously enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and other important disability rights laws.

The President has also nominated Congressman Tom Price to serve as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. As a member of the House of Representatives, Rep. Price has sought to dismantle critical programs providing services to people with disabilities, including the Affordable Care Act and the Medicaid program. Based on his record, Rep. Price's confirmation to head the Health and Human Services Department would spell danger for people with disabilities.

We ask you to **call Senators today** to tell them to **vote "no" on both the nomination of Jeff Sessions for Attorney General and Tom Price for Secretary of Health and Human Services.**

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- Jeff Sessions said that implementation of the IDEA, which requires schools to provide a free appropriate public education to students with disabilities, is "hurting public education" and is "the single most irritating problem for teachers throughout America today."
- Jeff Sessions has advanced troubling views about children with mental disabilities, saying "they may often be the most dangerous ones, the ones most likely to come back in, say, six months from now and kill some innocent child in a classroom or shoot their teacher."
- As Attorney General of Alabama, Mr. Sessions fought to eliminate two historic settlement agreements requiring community integration of adults and children with disabilities. One (*R.C. v. Hornsby*) changed practices in the child welfare system, which too often removed children with mental disabilities from their families and institutionalized them rather than providing effective services to enable them to stay at home. The other (*Wyatt v. Stickney*) required improved conditions in institutions and transitioned many people with disabilities to community settings as a remedy for unsafe and inhumane conditions in mental health and developmental disabilities institutions.
- Jeff Sessions voted not to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which ensures basic protections for people with disabilities around the world.

- Jeff Sessions voted against expanding the federal hate crime law to include crimes motivated by a victim's disability.
- Tom Price led efforts to try to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which has brought about the most significant expansion of needed services for people with disabilities in decades.
- Tom Price supports turning Medicaid into a block grant program, leaving Medicaid beneficiaries without the right to coverage of any particular services. Decisions about who should receive services would be entirely up to states' discretion – and states would receive less money from the federal government to provide services.
- Tom Price has advocated for dramatic cuts to safety net programs. His last proposed budget took nearly two-thirds of its cuts from programs that serve low- and moderate-income individuals and families.
- Tom Price has touted segregated residential settings exclusively for people with disabilities as a "safe and integrated community alternative to institutional placement." This raises concerns about his commitment to fully enforce the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Settings rule.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

CALL YOUR SENATOR! The Senate will vote on Jeff Sessions' nomination early this evening, and on Tom Price's nomination later this week. Please call your Senators to tell them to vote "no" on Sessions and Price. Call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at **(202) 224-3121** (the Switchboard line may be busy—you can call back as many times as needed) and ask to be connected to your Senator's office.

Tell your Senators to vote NO on the Sessions and Price nominations!