

# Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of March 17-23, 2017

This week's newsfeed is a bit different than the usual list. The usual categories are listed below with recommendations for reading selected articles. (Articles are identified by their number in the list. The list is arranged alphabetically by state within each category.) Many thanks to Jennifer Palmer for creating this newsfeed.

Sexual Abuse: 30

Physical Abuse: 4, 13, 19, 23, 28, 36

Neglect: 2, 15

Murder: 3, 15, 18, 25, 29, 31

Abuse by- Parents: 13, 15, 25, 29, 36; by Carers: 30, by Teachers: 32

Legislation needed: 1, 27

School related: 2, 3, 19

Missing: 5 Found deceased 9

Exploitation 21, 32, 33, 34

Guardianship: 24

Abuse by law enforcement: 19, 26, 49, 55

Health impacted by abuse: 43, 131

New product: 59

New problems: 65

Protest in DC: 98

## ABUSE AND NEGLECT

1. **Trauma in psychiatric settings.** There are approximately 10,000 individuals that end up in locked psychiatric institutions or units in Alaska annually. Patient advocates estimate up to 47 percent of the patients are mistreated. [juneauempire.com](http://juneauempire.com), March 22 (Alaska) <https://is.gd/V22UKT>

2. **Working 4 You: Special Education & Access Denied?** A Northeast Arkansas family claims their impending senior has been blocked from attending school, because officials have refused to give her food and drink throughout the day -- requiring a doctor's note or liability waiver for the girl to return, following a breach of medical privacy and contentions over special education services. arkansasmatters.com, March 17 (Arkansas) <https://is.gd/i8D8uD>
3. **Autistic San Bernardino teen's death on school bus hits family hard.** Rosalia Munoz, 78, right, and Gloria Munoz, grandmother and aunt of Anthony Corona, mourn his death at their San Bernardino home on Friday, March 10, 2017. The 18-year-old Anthony Corona died on December 9, 2016 while riding from Bright Futures Academy in Riverside to his San Bernardino home. pe.com, March 18 (California) <https://is.gd/sryBhW>
4. **VICTORVILLE MAN BEATS, ROBS TEEN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, DEPUTIES SAY.** A Victorville man attacked and robbed a teen who has developmental disabilities on Friday, according to authorities. abc7.com, March 20 (California) <https://is.gd/pn05eU>
5. **Police search for autistic man who went missing after L.A. Marathon.** Police in Santa Monica are asking the public to help find a man with autism who went missing after running in the L.A. Marathon. latimes.com, March 20 (California) <https://is.gd/26Hw9F>
6. **Santa Ana to Settle Lawsuit Alleging Denial of Rights to Deaf Woman in ICE Detention.** Rosario Maciel Avitia remained at Santa Ana Jail under Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention five months longer than she should have. Ocweekly.com, March 16 (California) <https://is.gd/3A42Jq>
7. **Eatsa sued for not easing blind customers' orders from kiosks.** A federal lawsuit seeking class-action status has been filed against San Francisco fast-food chain Eatsa. sfgate.com, March 23 (California) <https://is.gd/GSIFdP>

8. **Home Depot Faces Potential \$50M Verdict As Traumatic Brain Injury Lawsuit Goes To Trial.** The attorney for a man hit by falling metal boxes in a Home Depot asked a California state court jury on Thursday to award his client up to \$50 million in damages, arguing the accident injured his brain and left him struggling each day to “keep from losing his mind.” cvn.com, March 17 (California) <https://is.gd/j2pjVU>
9. **Missing Autistic Man Found Dead In Greenwich, Police Say.** Police have found the body of a local man who has been missing since last week. courant.com, March 17 (Connecticut) <https://is.gd/j9wcv1>
10. **BSO settles lawsuit with mentally ill woman dragged through courthouse by deputy.** The Broward Sheriff's Office has settled a lawsuit filed by the attorney of a mentally ill woman who was dragged through the Broward County courthouse by a deputy. local10.com, March 17 (Florida) <https://is.gd/rQJyRa>
11. **Florida prosecutor won't charge corrections officers who allegedly tortured black schizophrenic inmate.** The corrections officers who locked a schizophrenic man in a shower for nearly two hours — a shower that some inmates say was used as a means to punish unruly prisoners with blistering hot water — committed no crime, Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle announced Friday. rawstory.com, March 17 (Florida) <https://is.gd/M4o4g2>
12. **Some Not Buying State Attorney Report Calling Mentally Ill Inmate's Death Accidental.** No correctional officers are responsible for the scalding hot shower death of mentally ill inmate Darren Rainey. wfsu.org. March 20 (Florida) <https://is.gd/TmgAux>
13. **Mother guilty, stepfather acquitted in case of starved autistic girl.** Jade Jacobs has been found guilty of child cruelty and false imprisonment for starving her then-15-year-old autistic daughter and locking her in a closet. ajc.com, March 16 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/8O8TfB>
14. **Fire Breaks Out in a Home with Intellectually disabled R\residents.** Authorities say several people have been treated for smoke inhalation after a fire at a home in Mason City. The fire was reported late Sunday

night. kiow.com, March 20 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/ZG8j09>

**15. Starved Iowa teen found by medics in adult diaper.** The mother, Nicole Marie Finn, 42 faces charges for the death along with child endangerment charges for her treatment of the other two teenagers. clicklancashire.com, March 17 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/wJYmD>

**16. Former group home worker to serve probation for contributing to misconduct of teen.** A former group home worker this week was ordered to serve 18 months of probation for contributing to the misconduct of a teen girl who lived at the facility where he worked. kansas.com, March 17 (Kansas) <https://is.gd/lfiacN>

**17. Fire at Overland Park group home sends 6 people to hospitals, 1 in critical condition.** Emergency crews took six people to the hospital, one with critical injuries, after a fire broke out just after midnight Wednesday in an Overland Park home for people with disabilities. kansascity.com, March 22 (Kansas) <https://is.gd/tf4DPe>

**18. Murder trial opens for officer in autistic boy's shooting.** A trial for a Louisiana law enforcement officer charged with murder in a 6-year-old autistic boy's shooting opened Monday with jurors hearing vastly different portrayals of the child's father and his role in the deadly confrontation. wdsu.com, March 20 (Louisiana) <https://is.gd/wy0hpi>

**19. Father says son is traumatized after being handcuffed at school.** A New Orleans father is upset and said his 9-year-old son is traumatized after being handcuffed at his Treme neighborhood school last Thursday. wdsu.com, March 21 (Louisiana) <https://is.gd/oRIZF1>

**20. Family of Slain Cab Driver Sues State Agency, Group Home.** The family of a New Bedford cab driver who was shot to death in his vehicle is suing the state Department of Youth Services and the group home the suspect had left. usnews.com, March 17 (Massachusetts) <https://is.gd/pQr64S>

**21. 30-year-old charged after picking up teenagers from group home.** A New Britain man has been accused of asking a teenager from a local group

home if she would sell drugs for him and offering to get drunk and high with her. centralctcommunications.com, March 20 (Massachusetts) <https://is.gd/cLRrZG>

22. **Man in wheelchair dies after hit by Kansas City truck.** Kansas City police are investigating after a city water department truck struck and killed a man in a wheelchair. sanluisobispo.com, March 17 (Missouri) <https://is.gd/LAUG8y>

23. **Handicapped Man Pleads Not Guilty to SGF Child Kidnapping.** The Springfield man accused of kidnapping an autistic girl who ran away from home pleaded "not guilty" today. In December, 59-year-old Harold Brooks was charged with felony first-degree child kidnapping and felony attempted enticement of a child. ozarksfirst.com, March 17 (Missouri) <https://is.gd/z1ApJn>

24. **CONTACT 13: Las Vegas attorney in guardianship case charged.** A Las Vegas attorney involved in a guardianship abuse scandal faced a judge Wednesday. Noel Palmer Simpson worked for private guardian April Parks and three of her associates. ktnv.com, March 22 (Nevada) <https://is.gd/HHcgJ2>

25. **Parents Allegedly Murdered Adopted, Handicapped Son And Set Fire To Cover it Up.** Two parents were charged after they allegedly murdered their 16-year-old adopted son and then tried to cover it up. insideedition.com, March 23 (New York) <https://is.gd/LwWX90>

26. **Cops beat autistic man while conducting search: suit.** An autistic Bushwick man was pulled naked out of the shower and beaten by cops executing a search warrant at his home, his mother claims. nypost.com, March 19 (New York) <https://is.gd/o6b5nY>

27. **FDR memorial not wheelchair-friendly: lawsuit.** If Franklin D. Roosevelt were alive today, the former President would have trouble accessing a New York memorial built to honor him, a lawsuit says. cnn.com, March 18 (New York) <https://is.gd/7r3CHq>

28. **Statesville man charged with break-in, assault on disabled person.** The

Statesville Police Department arrested a Statesville man after he was accused of entering a home and assaulting a woman who lives there. statesville.com, March 20 (North Carolina) <https://is.gd/CeGZ9I>

29. **A mother's belief her sons had disabilities led to their drowning deaths.** Laurel Michelle Schlemmer viewed herself as meek, proper, naive and a people-pleasing rule follower. post-gazette.com, March 18 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/24lr4I>
30. **Group home worker charged with sexual assaults in Westmoreland County.** A worker at a group home for troubled youths in Westmoreland County has been charged with sexually assaulting two residents, one of whom was a minor. tribdem.com, March 17 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/uTZshM>
31. **Teen pleads guilty to manslaughter in Carrick group home death.** A teen accused in the death of another teen at a Carrick group home entered a guilty plea Wednesday. wtae.com, March 22 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/peCiY8>
32. **Special education teacher arrested on child porn charge.** A special education teacher accused of possessing child pornography faced a judge on Thursday. wspa.com, March 16 (Rhode Island) <https://is.gd/wi7fhO>
33. **Man accused of exploitation of vulnerable adult in Oconee Co.** A Westminster man was arrested on an outstanding warrant on charges of Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult, according to the Oconee Co. Sheriff's Office. wspa.com, March 20 (South Carolina) <https://is.gd/8OKZuA>
34. **Home health care worker charged with exploitation of adult.** A home health care provider is off the job after she was charged with exploitation of an adult, forgery, theft, identity theft and a computer offense. local8now.com, March 22 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/Hqi3e2>
35. **Officials Confident In Greene Valley's Summer Closure, Abuse Cases Investigated.** State officials say they are confident Greene Valley Developmental Center will close by June 30 to comply with a court-

accepted plan to exit a more than 20-year-old lawsuit.  
greenevillesun.com, March 18 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/6ePqmu>

**36. Half-blind S.A. man allegedly broke crying child's leg out of frustration.** A partially blind man says his impaired vision caused him to accidentally break his child's femur when he slammed his fists down out of frustration.  
mysanantonio.com, March 22 (Texas) <https://is.gd/Mk2WFz>

**37. 29 escape fire at SW Houston boarding home.** Larry Thomas smelled smoke about 4 a.m. Thursday. It was coming through the vents of his first-floor bedroom in the southwest Houston boarding home he manages.  
chron.com, March 23 (Texas) <https://is.gd/dD9ABY>

**38. Group home resident charged in attack on woman.** A group home resident was arrested Tuesday after the home's manager called police to report the man had allegedly attacked a woman at the residence run by Alpha Homes, Inc.  
journaltimes.com, March 22 (Wisconsin) <https://is.gd/ojPc7T>

## IMPROVED SUPPORTS

**39. Sesame Street introduces autistic character.** Sesame Street is adding a new character named Julia, who has red hair and is autistic.  
mercurynews.com, March 20 <https://is.gd/iO2bd5>

**40. Do autistic children need to be beaten with wooden spoons?** An autistic Facebook admin recently had a reader offer to 'slap the autism' out of her, and suggested that children be beaten with wooden spoons.  
blastingnews.com, March 19 <https://is.gd/hsjzhK>

**41. 'Power Rangers' breaks down barriers with autistic, LGBT characters.** When the new "Power Rangers" movie hits theaters later this week, fans will get to see a different team from the one they knew growing up.  
abcnews.go.com, March 21 <https://is.gd/L8g3Vi>

**42. Once It Fully Catches On, Ketamine Could Be a Really Important Antidepressant.** At the moment, the study of hallucinogens as possible treatments for mental illness is in an early, exciting stage — partly because the U.S. government has, for decades, blocked off many promising avenues of exploration.  
nymag.com, March 21

<https://is.gd/Kzf79I>

43. **Health and behavior problems can linger after child abuse.** Children who have suffered from abuse or neglect may have physical or behavioral health problems even after the mistreatment stops, new guidelines for pediatricians emphasize. foxnews.com, March 21 <https://is.gd/HVDPs7>
44. **Diuretic Continues to Show Promise in Autism.** Treatment with the diuretic bumetanide (Bumex, Validus) improved core symptoms of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), including social deficits and stereotyped behaviors, results from a multicenter phase 2b study show. medscape.com, March 22 <https://is.gd/zyVeaj>
45. **Father Of 2 Sons With Schizophrenia Talks Of His Struggle To Save Them.** As the father of two sons with schizophrenia, author Ron Powers is familiar with the pain and frustration of dealing with a chronic, incurable disease of the brain. npr.org, March 20 <https://is.gd/danCNe>
46. **The Controversy About Restraints On People With Autism.** I'm sitting in my office when I get the familiar knock on my door accompanied with, "It's a crisis and you are needed!" huffingtonpost.com, March 21 <https://is.gd/s7L06V>
47. **Bristol Palin Honors Brother Trig on World Down Syndrome Day.** Bristol Palin Meyer celebrated World Down Syndrome Day on Tuesday by honoring her 8-year-old brother Trig Palin. people.com, March 22 (Alaska) <https://is.gd/H0OLaZ>
48. **Letter: Handicapped parking.** There seems to be some confusion regarding wheelchair users and handicapped parking, after your story on Feb. 25, relating to legislation sponsored by Rep. Noel Campbell. dcourier.com, March 18 (Arizona) <https://is.gd/ehQs6D>
49. **Complaints to Arizona's Adult Protective Services rarely substantiated.** For 30 days while Moore traveled last summer, she says, her 80-year-old father, Larry Foreman, did not get any of his two 5 milligram daily doses of Eliquis, a blood thinner prescribed by his heart doctor. tucson.com, March 18 (Arizona) <https://is.gd/Rez170>
50. **Santa Rosa clinic gets \$2.5 million healthcare hub for Sonoma**



**Developmental Center residents.** Residents of the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC), which is slated for closure by the end of next year, will get some continuing specialized healthcare services through a new contract awarded by the state's Department of Developmental Services. sonomanews.com, March 16 (California) <https://is.gd/aO86BL>

51. **Fearing Deportation, Immigrant Parents Plan for What Will Happen to Their Children.** Since President Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration, previously unseen numbers of undocumented immigrant parents in Los Angeles, fearing the splintering of their families, have taken steps to ensure they have someone to care for their children in the event they are deported, according to several prominent immigrant rights organizations in L.A. lawweekly.com, March 18 (California) <https://is.gd/n3kxuZ>
52. **Disability Rights Advocates announces donation of 10,000 shares of Community Bank of the Bay stock.** Community Bank of the Bay (CBYAA) and its long time client Disability Rights Advocates (DRA) jointly announced today that through the generosity of one of the bank's founding shareholders, 10,000 shares of its common stock were donated to Disability Rights Advocates. globenewswire.com, March 21 (California) <https://is.gd/IJsMlp>
53. **Meriden mom hopes experimental treatment will help autistic son.** A fundraiser next month will raise money for the autistic teen to travel to Mexico to undergo an experimental stem cell treatment his mother hopes will give him a more independent future. myrecordjournal.com, March 19 (Connecticut) <https://is.gd/TH42YH>
54. **On Your Side: Parents of autistic student puzzled by high test scores but low grades.** Two Duval County parents say their son is struggling to find balance in his education. Their 15-year-old is autistic and high-functioning on the spectrum; a combination that's keeping him in a limbo that threatens his future. firstcoastnews.com, March 18 (Florida) <https://is.gd/ktCqIN>
55. **Police cars parked in school's handicapped spots; Dawson sheriff says it won't happen again.** Two Dawson County sheriff's vehicles were seen parked in a handicapped spot outside the local high school, and the

county's top law enforcement officer says it will never happen again. 11alive.com, March 20 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/8gK7ed>

**56. The Separate, Unequal Education of Students With Special Needs.**

Georgia's system to teach children with disabilities falls vastly short of its promise. theatlantic.com, March 22 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/IJVm4C>

**57. Illegal Care Homes Are A Growing Problem In Hawaii.** The operators of residential care facilities want lawmakers to crack down on what's being called a growing consumer protection issue. civilbeat.org, March 22 (Hawaii) <https://is.gd/rmjswl>

**58. Constable: 'Aging out,' man with autism finds path.** Like a lot of 22-year-old suburban people finishing their formal educations, Ben Nicholas of Mount Prospect flashes an easy smile. In it, you see both satisfaction for what he has accomplished and anticipation for the adult path opening before him. dailyherald.com, March 18 (Illinois) <https://is.gd/VIDFk2>

**59. This Group Has Created a Reproductive Health Guide for Women With Disabilities.** A new reproductive health guide was created for women with disabilities. sheknows.com, March 21 (Illinois) <https://is.gd/WKy76Y>

**60. Program keeps disabled adults on learning path.** *"I had people in my life who didn't give up on me: my mother, my aunt, my science teacher. I had one-on-one speech therapy. I had a nanny who spent all day playing turn-taking games with me."* chicagotribune.com, March 20 (Illinois) <https://is.gd/TdOKcW>

**61. School seclusion bill proposed at Iowa Statehouse.** Retired teacher Mary Mascher wants a task force to study rules, data and practices for restraint and seclusion. thegazette.com, March 22 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/9pZPuY>

**62. Disability rights clinic planned in Sioux Falls.** The Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls will play host to two days of disability rights clinics in April. argusleader.com, March 21 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/828yeo>

**63. Parents of children with developmental disabilities want funding for programs.** Funding seen as vital to help both children and adults.

wwlp.com, March 21 (Massachusetts) <https://is.gd/FmlciF>

**64. Manufacturer Turns to People with Disabilities in Overcoming Worker Shortage.** MDI manufactures plastic packaging solutions with a workforce that is 50 percent people with disabilities. ien.com, March 21 (Minnesota) <https://is.gd/zPrFMc>

**65. JCPS working to address younger students' behavioral health needs.** Director of Elementary Education Brian Shindorf and Jefferson City Public Schools staff are worried about their observations younger children are coming to them with the behavioral and social health needs typically displayed only by older children in years past. newtribune.com, March 17 (Missouri) <https://is.gd/zJzSkK>

**66. Montana special education co-ops 'losing ground every year' as funding flatlines.** "Hi, my name is Yara." That sentence came out of a Tobii Dynavox I-12+, a speech-generating device that 5-year-old Yara Elion is learning to use in order to communicate. missoulain.com, March 20 (Montana) <https://is.gd/1xK3wX>

**67. Principal helps 10-year-old with special needs complete 5K.** School principals often push their students to aim high and reach for the stars. Fox 29 met with one local principal who leads by example and, in doing so, made a dream come true for one of his students with special needs. foxnews.com, March 20 (New Jersey) <https://is.gd/TxrBWD>

**68. Volunteer Transportation Center expands service accessibility with new wheelchair vans.** For the first time in its history, the Volunteer Transportation Center has its own fleet of wheelchair-accessible vans. watertowndailytimes.com, March 22 (New York) <https://is.gd/Bk5kbz>

**69. Comptroller Scott Stringer Calls On Department Of Education To Fix Special Education Data System.** Activist groups now have the support of city Comptroller Scott Stringer in their fight for special needs children. newyork.cbslocal.com, March 19 (New York) <https://is.gd/BGvNn7>

**70. Autism May Be Detectable In Blood.** Scientists say they can predict with near perfect accuracy whether or not a child has autism from a blood sample. disabilitycoop.com, March 16 (New York) <https://is.gd/CGkBGw>

- 71. NORTH CAROLINA RALLIES TOGETHER FOR WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY.** Advocates and lawmakers are now working together to raise awareness about Down syndrome. On Tuesday, many advocates gathered at the North Carolina Legislative Building for the first Down Syndrome Advocacy Day. abc11.com, March 21 (North Carolina) <https://is.gd/X3rUTb>
- 72. Eternal Sorrow: My Unexpected Descent into the Mental Health System.** I didn't get into the mental health system the way that most psychiatric survivors do. However, once I was in, I ended up injured and disabled because of it. madinamerica.com, March 23 (South Carolina) <https://is.gd/3CLipD>
- 73. Tennessee Aims To Close Greene Valley Developmental Center By Summer 2017.** By the summer of 2017, the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) anticipates that it will be able to close the Greene Valley Developmental Center (GVDC). openminds.com, March 20 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/l3Wf6p>
- 74. An Architect Designed This Soft, Immersive Jungle Gym For His Autistic Daughter.** University of Michigan professor Sean Ahlquist studies how immersive architecture could treat autism. fastcodesign.com, March 17 (Texas) <https://is.gd/PIZl6Q>
- 75. Texas can't improve special education without data.** A child's academic progress is every parent's concern; tracking that progress is a fundamental responsibility of our schools. Good educational data and metrics, with evidence-based instruction, can change the outcome of a child's life. tribtalk.org, March 22 (Texas) <https://is.gd/W1WYNn>
- 76. Banking product allows people with disabilities to save money in Virginia.** Matthew Shapiro's monthly ritual used to involve making sure his bank account didn't exceed \$2,000. If it did, the 26-year-old Glen Allen resident risked losing his disability and health care benefits from the federal government. richmond.com, March 19 (Virginia) <https://is.gd/NK7tuF>
- 77. Vet had to drag himself home when his wheelchair got stuck.** Now he

can explore again. For 12 years, Dan Kaiser, 60, has been able to go only where his wheelchair can take him. And that's not far. sacbee.com, March 21 (Washington) <https://is.gd/zGgUS8>

**78. Kelso neighbors chip in on wheelchair for beloved teacher.** When it comes to the Kelso community, it's a given that they love to give back. And when it comes to a favorite teacher, one well-known man shines bright. kgw.com, March 21 (Washington) <https://is.gd/r7zY3n>

**79. Bayfield Man Receives Standup Wheelchair.** A local college student is standing tall after receiving a one-of-a-kind gift giving him a higher outlook on life. wdio.com, March 17 (Wisconsin) <https://is.gd/U4l81L>

## LAWS AND LEGISLATION

**80. What is at stake in the Autism insurance bill?** Alabama is one of only five states left in the country without insurance reform to mandate the coverage of evidence-based Autism therapies. HB284 is the best shot at meaningful Autism insurance reform this state has ever seen. al.com, March 21 (Alabama) <https://is.gd/3BFVUQ>

**81. Twins, divided: The fate of mentally disabled husband heading to mediation.** The family factions warring over the welfare of Ryan Morris, a mentally disabled man, agreed on Thursday to enter mediation, even as their battle wends its way through the justice system. ocregister.com, March 17 (California) <https://is.gd/bjS7Hi>

**82. Drucker: Time to Stop Misrepresenting Charter Gains on Special Education.** The 74 is moderating a panel Wednesday at the 24th annual California Charter Schools Conference in Sacramento, about inaccurate narratives surrounding public charter schools and how the mainstream media covers, and occasionally distorts, the sector. the74million.org, March 21 (California) <https://is.gd/EKu7ap>

**83. Autism Law Enforcement Training Heads To Florida House Floor.** A bill requiring autism awareness training for law enforcement officers is now heading to the House floor. wfsu.org, March 17 (Florida) <https://is.gd/hNolIF>

**84. Money for social services hangs in balance amid federal budget talks.**

President Donald Trump unveiled his first budget blueprint, which included a proposed \$54 billion in cuts to large parts of the federal government and popular programs, both big and small. wrbl.com, March 20 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/M1gkAt>

**85. KDADS Secretary Seeks Exemption From Gun Law For State Psychiatric Hospitals.** The leader of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services wants the state's two psychiatric hospitals to be exempt from a concealed carry law set to take effect in July. <http://kcur.org>, March 17 (Kansas) <https://is.gd/enpJG5>

**86. Christie administration satisfies suit requiring N.J. find homes for mentally ill.** The Christie administration has met the requirements of an eight-year-old lawsuit settlement that required New Jersey to provide community housing for people with significant mental illnesses and promptly discharge patients from state hospitals once they have been medically cleared to leave. nj.com, March 17 (New Jersey) <https://is.gd/vehK14>

**87. 'Collateral damage' to developmentally disabled.** Monday's headline pointed out that the repeal of the Affordable Care Act would "inflict collateral damage." njherald.com, March 19 (New Jersey) <https://is.gd/cpauG4>

**88. Complaint cites special ed staffing shortfall in Paterson.** Special education jobs in the public schools remained vacant for months this year while Paterson children with disabilities missed out on services mandated by state law, according to a new complaint filed Monday by a legal advocacy group. northjersey.com, March 21 (New Jersey) <https://is.gd/RQ42ky>

**89. Committee forming to fight group homes.** A Washington County man is starting a committee to fight the proposed Brand New Beginnings homes for troubled youth. poststar.com, March 18 (New York) <https://is.gd/UOE5bE>

**90. My Turn: The importance of protection and advocacy for North**

**Carolina's disability community.** "The doctor had warned me that it would be bad. It was horrible." — Geraldo Rivera...gastongazette.com, March 16 (North Carolina) <https://is.gd/qx2aly>

**91. Tennessee death row inmates lose Supreme Court appeals.** The Supreme Court has rejected appeals from three Tennessee death-row inmates who say they should not be executed because they are intellectually disabled. wcyb.com, March 20 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/3Z4X8P>

**92. Settlement may be close in lawsuit over mentally ill inmates kept in jails.** A lawsuit against the state of Utah over mentally ill inmates being kept in jails without any kind of treatment may be close to being settled. That's because the Utah State Legislature has funded \$3 million to address the problem. fox13now.com, March 20 (Utah) <https://is.gd/WP9HZF>

**93. Probe of Rockbridge social services nearly done; new law to expand state's role.** As a criminal investigation of the Rockbridge Area Department of Social Services nears a conclusion, new legislation will allow Virginia's inspector general to assist should similar cases arise. roanoke.com, March 20 (Virginia) <https://is.gd/JMfnRn>

**94. Hold Gorsuch accountable on disability rights.** Today the Senate Judiciary committee will be reviewing President Trump's nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court. thehill.com, March 20 (Washington DC) <https://is.gd/6BNqgX>

**95. Trump budget proposal could be 'devastating' to local social services.** Low-income populations and the organizations that provide them with vital services could face significant cuts under President Donald Trump's budget proposal unveiled this week, officials in Washington County said. heraldmailmedia.com, March 18 (Washington DC) <https://is.gd/L1xxLY>

**96. Gorsuch: 'I'm sorry' about ruling against autistic student.** Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch said an opinion he wrote siding with a Colorado school district over the family of an autistic student was "wrong" and "I'm sorry" for it — but he had been bound by precedent. politico.com, March 22 (Washington DC) <https://is.gd/BZWiPV>

**97. The Latest: Pa. moderate Dent to vote no on health bill.** A prominent Republican moderate from Pennsylvania says he'll be voting against the

GOP health care bill expected to go to the House floor Thursday.  
daytondailynews.com, March 22 (Washington DC) <https://is.gd/ivi5GR>

98. **Handicapped Protest Closes Rotunda.** 40-person protest kept lawmakers from entering. rollcall.com, March 23 (Washington DC)

<https://is.gd/9GagcN>

99. **Can Disability Rights Stay Bipartisan?** The Supreme Court just ruled 8–0 in favor of the rights of disabled students to a real education. Can this unanimity last? psmag.com, March 22 (Washington DC)

<https://is.gd/hTjjQm>

100. **Advocates for disability rights call for preservation of critical ACA components.** Advocates from the Center for Disability Rights and other organizations are calling on local Republican congressional members to preserve critical components of the Affordable Care Act that would affect disabled populations. wxxinews.org, March 22 (Washington DC)

<https://is.gd/G2gNzL> \*spelling error was in original story

101. **Voice of the people. Need will rise for waiver programs.** A recent budget proposal recommended that funding be reduced, but Intellectual Disability Waiver Programs are too important to cut back. herald-

dispatch.com, March 17 (West Virginia) <https://is.gd/DcTgAM>

## INTERNATIONAL

102. **National approach crucial to make Australians with disability equal before the law.** As an ABC journalist for almost two decades, one issue I have reported on that has rattled me more than any other is the discrimination against people with a disability in Australia's justice system. abc.net.au, March 20 (Australia) <https://is.gd/e6ZnhZ>

103. **Bishop Auckland amputee voices ambulance concern after being forced to stay in hospital an extra 24 hours.** AN amputee who had to wait more than eight hours for an emergency ambulance last summer has again raised concerns after a series of blunders ended in him clogging up a hospital bed for 24 hours. thenorthernecho.co.uk, March 17 (Australia)

<https://is.gd/ep4521>



104. **Children left with broken bones from 'clumsy' use of restraints in Victoria's troubled juvenile jails.** The "clumsy" use of restraints by staff in Victoria's troubled juvenile jails has left children with broken bones, while handcuffs have made self-harm wounds bleed, a parliamentary inquiry has heard. abc.net.au, March 17 (Australia) <https://is.gd/VT5mKC>
105. **FASD conference in Saskatoon aims to educate caregivers.** The mother of a young girl with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is hosting a conference in Saskatoon to help defeat the "shame and blame" culture around the medical condition. cbc.ca, March 21(Canada) <https://is.gd/1eW02J>
106. **Members of Ottawa's deaf community join Canadian Hearing Society picketers.** As Ottawa's Canadian Hearing Society employees continue to walk the picket line, members of the local deaf and hard of hearing community are standing with them. ottawacommunitynews.com, March 17 (Canada) <https://is.gd/YDlndB>
107. **Group home operator wants training not jail time after fatal fire and repeat fire code violations.** David MacPherson, a 72-year-old mentally ill man died during a fire at a home run by Keith Charles. cbc.ca, March 20 (Canada) <https://is.gd/cFrso6>
108. **High-tech backpacks open world of whales to deaf students.** The dozens of deaf students wore high-tech backpacks that turn whale songs into vibrations, opening the world of whales to children who gasped and marveled at feeling the sounds for the first time. seattletimes.com, March 17. (Dominican Republic) <https://is.gd/W3XNbU>
109. **Fiji to ratify disability rights.** Fiji's government will recommend that parliament ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities. radionz.co.nz, March 18 (Fiji) <https://is.gd/NKbf9I>
110. **Goan beach experience on offer for wheelchair users.** UMOJA, an online travel service for people with special needs, will launch a beach festival to give wheelchair users and their families an opportunity to enjoy Goa's Candolim beach. thehindu.com, March 20 (Goa) <https://is.gd/sE9wHR>
111. **Group invites community to offer prayers on World Down Syndrome Day, March 21.** For World Down Syndrome Day, a local group

wants the families affected by Down syndrome to know that they are not alone. guampdn.com, March 20 (Guam) <https://is.gd/7bXuAl>

**112. India: Businesses Must Prepare to Comply With New Disability Act.**

The Indian government is expected to announce rules to implement a new disability rights law enacted in late 2016 that requires private businesses to develop an equal employment opportunity policy, register it with the Commissioner for Persons with Disability and provide barrier-free access in buildings, transport systems and all other kinds of infrastructure. bna.com, March 17 (India) <https://is.gd/DwvAcz>

**113. Unable to pay bribe for hospital wheelchair, patient uses son's toy tricycle.**

The state-run Gandhi Hospital authorities today constituted a committee to probe into the allegations that a patient was denied wheelchair for being unable to pay "bribes." hindustantimes.com, March 17 (India) <https://is.gd/ymwobX>

**114. Inspectors critical of controls in Mayo psychiatric facility.**

Residents were not adequately protected from peer-to-peer abuse at a psychiatric facility in Castlebar, Co Mayo, according to an inspectors' report. irishtimes.com, March 17 (Ireland) <https://is.gd/989DBW>

**115. Runners raise 1/2 million dollars for special needs children.**

OU Yachad runners in Jerusalem marathon raise \$500,000 for special needs English-speaking children in Israel. israelnationalnews.com, March 17 (Israel) <https://is.gd/f7ChXT>

**116. Japanese aid for the construction of a Care Home for intellectually challenged children in Kavrepalanchowk.**

The Government of Japan has decided to extend financial assistance of US Dollars 83,270, equivalent to approximately Nepalese Rupees 8,879,000, to Samaj Sewa Samuha under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects ... <http://annapurnapost.com>, March 16. (Japan) <https://is.gd/csiRyM>

**117. Inclusive WASH facilities vital for people with disability.**

The Association of People with Physical Disabilities in Malawi (APDM) has urged various sectors to ensure the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programs implemented in various areas of the country are disability friendly. malawi24.com, March 19 (Malawi) <https://is.gd/YKl4Sy>

118. **No criminal charges for Southland school over alleged seclusion room.** Police have decided not to lay charges against anyone at a Southland special school over the alleged use of a seclusion room. radionz.co.nz, March 22 (New Zealand) <https://is.gd/WNylku>
119. **Ashley Peacock to be released.** FO RMER Gisborne man Ashley Peacock will be released from a mental health unit and live in the community, a breakthrough revealed today by his parents. gisborneherald.co.nz, March 24 (New Zealand) <https://is.gd/Cn72Ra>
120. **Gov should defer collecting personal data for social service.** ComVoices welcomes the announcement today that the sexual violence service providers have been exempted from providing MSD with identifiable data on clients for a year. <http://community.scoop.co.nz>, March 16 (New Zealand) <https://is.gd/e4vLx9>
121. **Boss struck off over 'sexual activity' of care home OAPs.** A care home manager failed to raise the alarm after she was told elderly residents "may have engaged in sexual activity". stv.tv, March 21 (Scotland) <https://is.gd/v3AkSc>
122. **New centre for the intellectually disabled opens in industrial estate.** A new day activity centre for people with intellectual disabilities was officially opened on Wednesday (March 22). It is in an industrial estate - believed to be a first for such centres in Singapore. straitstimes.com, March 22 (Singapore) <https://is.gd/BuX6tw>
123. **Special-needs kids neglected.** Children with learning difficulties are "grossly neglected" in mainstream schools. And teachers feel ill-equipped to help them. timeslive.co.za, March 20 (South Africa) <https://is.gd/uCB4Aw>
124. **UN disability rights committee opens with a call to spotlight gender issues.** The United Nations committee monitoring efforts to protect rights of persons with disabilities today opened its spring session today in Geneva with a call to pay special attention to gender issues. un.org, March 20 (Switzerland) <https://is.gd/wo0yiv>

125. **Chicago-based group brings smiles to deaf Syrian children.** Six-year-old Aya al-Souqi, a Syrian refugee, held the camera phone up to her gaze and listened to hear her mother. abcnews.go.com, March 21 (Syria) <https://is.gd/jj9dJv>
126. **Severely autistic twins, 11, who once lived like prisoners have had their lives transformed by a 'miracle' behavioural programme.** Parents of severely autistic twins claim their conditions have drastically improved after trying a pioneering technique - and could be on the way to being cured. dailymail.co.uk, March 23 (UK) <https://is.gd/WIQISu>
127. **NHS delays leave thousands facing long wait for wheelchairs.** Campaigners call for equality of access for disabled people as first official figures point to 'postcode lottery' in provisions. theguardian.com, March 21 (UK)
128. **Teach autistic children how to SWIM:** Lessons may help to save thousands of lives as young sufferers are 160 TIMES more likely to drown than their peers. Swimming lessons may help to save the lives of thousands of autistic children, scientists claim. dailymail.co.uk, March 22 (UK) <https://is.gd/VmlfJO>
129. **Hull carer Stewart Firth stole nearly £1,500 from vulnerable man he was looking after.** A carer who stole nearly £1,500 from a vulnerable man he was supposed to be looking after has been jailed for eight months. hulldailymail.co.uk, March 17 (UK) <https://is.gd/sP81Pn>
130. **Inadequate: Care home put in special measures after residents put "at risk of harm and neglect".** A CARE home where 'people were not always treated with dignity and respect' has been put in special measures by a health watchdog. bournemouthecho.co.uk, March 17 (UK) <https://is.gd/BGZYex>
131. **Abuse accelerates puberty in children: Kids who experience sexual abuse develop a year earlier than their non-abused peers.** Abuse accelerates the physical growth and maturity of children, a new study warns. Scientists say that young girls who are emotionally and physically abused hit puberty eight to 12 months earlier than their non-abused peers. dailymail.co.uk, March 17 (UK) <https://is.gd/M3sL9g>

132. **Two-year-old girl with Down Syndrome becomes face of Matalan.**

Lily Beddall, 2, won the modelling contract with fashion retailer Matalan, which means her picture will now be on show in every one of the chain's 217 UK stores. metro.co.uk, March 18 (UK) <https://is.gd/GG96s8>

133. **Beware The Minimum Wage Rise - Care Home Sector Cutting**

**Services Amid Bankruptcy Fears.** There are some of us who have been warning about minimum wages and the like for some time now. forbes.com, March 20 (UK) <https://is.gd/JlwoPK>