



CHADD's Advocacy & Public Policy Committee Lunch and Learn Webinar Series

THE STAKES FOR AMERICANS WITH ADHD ARE HIGHER THAN EVER ADHD Policy Briefing: The Impact of Federal Proposals on People with ADHD

Date: April 8, 2025 | Time: 12 PM ET | CHADD Virtual Lunch & Learn

The Problem:

Federal proposals are putting people with ADHD at risk.

The executive order establishing the [MAHA Commission](#) appears to question the validity of ADHD diagnoses and treatments, while efforts to weaken or eliminate the Department of Education threaten essential services for students with ADHD.

Why It Matters:

Untreated ADHD is a critical public health problem with devastating health and economic impacts.

- **ADHD is a serious, chronic condition with potentially devastating health consequences.** A growing number of studies reveal that untreated ADHD leads to a shorter lifespan. Just last year, a study following over 30,000 adults reported that men with ADHD die seven years earlier—and women with ADHD nine years earlier—than their peers without ADHD, largely due to higher rates of substance use, accidents, self-harm, and co-morbid health conditions. The most effective way to manage ADHD and reduce these risks is through a multimodal treatment approach, which includes medication, behavioral therapies like CBT, education and work supports, and lifestyle changes. Denying access to any part of this approach puts people at risk and drives up long-term costs.
- **The financial toll of ADHD is enormous,** costing the US between \$143 billion and \$266 billion each year.
- **Children with ADHD rely on federal education protections.** The Department of Education helps ensure that students with ADHD can access critical services under Section 504, IDEA, and related programs, giving them the tools to succeed and reducing future social and economic costs. Without these safeguards, students with ADHD face a higher risk of falling behind academically, being disciplined unfairly, or being pushed out of school entirely—outcomes that can reverberate for a lifetime.

Call to Action:

We urge Congress and the administration to...

- **Defend access to FDA-approved treatments for ADHD** by rejecting proposals that limit or undermine evidence-based approaches to care.
- **Protect educational supports for students with ADHD** by maintaining the Department of Education and enforcing laws like [Section 504 and IDEA](#).
- **Safeguard funding for ADHD and mental health research** to support continued development and evaluation of effective interventions.
- **Preserve insurance coverage under public and private plans** so families can access the treatments and services they need.

[CHADD.org/Policy-Positions](https://www.chadd.org/policy-positions)