

U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY



CHAIRMAN Special Committee on Aging

Data on Interactions and Accountability for Law Enforcement with Individuals with Disabilities (DIALED) Act

Why do we need the DIALED Act?

Few studies have examined the interactions between law enforcement personnel and people with disabilities, despite reports that people with disabilities are more likely to be victims of a crime, leading to increased interactions with law enforcement. There is very little information about the outcomes of these interactions which can lead to unnecessary use-of-force or end fatally. Law enforcement officers receive little training about the best approach to communicating with people with different disabilities.

One [report](#), from the Ruderman Family Foundation, found that 33 to 50 percent of all use-of-force instances involve people with mental health disabilities, despite statistics showing that only 19 percent of the population has a mental health disability. Many recent reports demonstrate the urgency to address these issues, including the deaths of [Osaze Osagie](#) of State College, PA in June 2019 and [Christian Hall](#) of Stroudsburg, PA in December 2020. There is a need for robust development and improvement of the methodologies used to collect and evaluate data to have an accurate understanding of interactions between law enforcement and people with disabilities across the Nation.

Current data collection methods, including the FBI Use of Force Data Collection and the Death in Custody Reporting Act requirements, fail to collect information on disability status. We need better data to further demonstrate the need for increased and continued training to protect both people with disabilities and law enforcement officers.

What would the DIALED Act do?

The DIALED Act would address data collection needs and promote accountability related to interactions between people with disabilities and law enforcement. The DIALED Act will accomplish this by:

- Creating a national advisory council on disability status and law enforcement interaction data collection tasked with developing collection and reporting methodologies and provide recommendations to the Attorney General on best practices.
- Amending the Death in Custody Reporting Act and the FBI Use of Force Data Collection Program to ensure that disability status is collected and reported publicly.

Cosponsors: *Senator Sanders, Senator Warren, Senator Van Hollen, Senator Durbin, Senator Duckworth, Senator Menendez, Senator Hirono, Senator Fetterman.*