



Alliance for the Betterment of
Citizens with Disabilities

Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies

22-Year-Old with Autism Falls to His Death While Attending Day Program¹

We Must Honor this Young Man through Meaningful Action

We are deeply saddened by this tragic loss of life and offer our deepest sympathies to family and friends who are now in mourning.

“Why did this happen?” That is the question. The findings from the police investigation and the review by the newly created Disability Mortality and Abuse Prevention Advisory Committee (which should be revised to be a standing committee) must guide us in developing policies to prevent tragedies like this from ever happening again.

Any proposed policy must have proof that it will prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation, otherwise it is wasted opportunity with potentially serious consequences.

We owe this young man meaningful action. In this regard, proof not politics should be our guide.

June 2, 2026

¹ [22-year-old with autism fell to his death while left unattended at day program, family says - nj.com](https://www.nj.com/news/health/2026/06/22-year-old-with-autism-fell-to-his-death-while-left-unattended-at-day-program-family-says-nj.html)