

ATTENTION: HELP OPPOSE CHANGES TO UTILITY RATES THAT ARE HARMFUL TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The California Public Utilities Commission is considering statewide changes to residential electricity rate structures that will increase the bills of low-income residents, including many people with disabilities and senior citizens who live on fixed incomes, in order to reduce rates for people who use the most electricity. The Center for Accessible Technology (CforAT) in Berkeley is opposing these changes, and is looking for real-world stories to show how increased energy bills will harm vulnerable consumers.

We are collecting stories from people who struggle to pay utility bills, and who rely on electricity-operated medical equipment for essential health and life-sustaining purposes. These stories will help decision-makers understand the real-world impacts of any utility rate change impacting vulnerable Californians.

PLEASE SHARE YOUR STORY

If anyone in your household has a disability, we want to hear from you:

- Do you struggle to pay your utility bills?
- Have you ever been forced to choose between paying your utility bill and a bill for another essential service, such as medicine, food, or transportation?
- Have you limited your use of electricity (including air conditioning) in a way that impacted your health, safety or comfort?
- Will an increase in utility rates harm your ability to pay for all your monthly expenses? How would you manage higher utility bills?
- If possible, please tell us what percentage of your monthly income you spend on electricity and natural gas utilities.

Nicolie Bolster at DREDF (Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund) is working with CforAT to gather real-world stories to oppose harmful changes that will increase utility costs for low-income consumers. **Please share your stories as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, April 19, 2013 by contacting us at:**

Email: nbolster@dredf.org or Toll-Free Phone: (800) 348-4232 Ext. 5237

En Español: (510) 926-4017

(If leaving a voicemail message, tell your story briefly and please talk very slowly when saying your name and phone number.)

Please pass this information along to anyone who may have information to share.