

# #StopTheShock #WeAreStillWaiting

## Grassroots Social Media Kit

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## What's happening at the Judge Rotenberg Center?

The Judge Rotenberg Center (JRC) is an institution in Massachusetts for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), mental health disabilities, and learning disabilities, including many autistic people. The people held at the JRC are disproportionately people of color. The Judge Rotenberg Center tortures some of the people living there using an electric shock device called a Gradual Electronic Decelerator (GED).

Children and adults at the JRC are forced to wear the GED on their bodies. Using a remote control, someone else can use the GED to give an electric shock to the person wearing it. The JRC uses the GED as an “aversive:” they use the pain of the electric shock to punish people for doing certain things.

The JRC says that they need to use the GED on the people who live there because they struggle with aggression and self-injury. **But the JRC is the only place in the United States that uses electric shocks to punish people with disabilities.** All across America, people with the exact same disabilities as the people at the JRC are being supported to deal with the exact same problems, without any kind of aversives. Research shows that positive supports for people with disabilities are better than aversives at helping people keep from hurting themselves or others.

Using the GED doesn't only hurt people with disabilities by shocking them. It can burn skin, or make someone unable to move. Getting shocked also makes people more likely to develop mental health disabilities because of their bad experiences with the GED. People with disabilities who were shocked by the GED have developed PTSD, depression, and anxiety disorders.

## What has the FDA done about this?

After a hearing on April 24th, 2014 about the use of GED, the FDA found that the devices are not safe to use, do not help the people they are used on, and cause serious harm. This conclusion led the FDA to recommend that the GED be banned. Since then, JRC survivors and disability rights advocates have fought hard at every step to move the FDA closer to banning the device. In 2016, the FDA wrote a final rule banning the GED, but they have not released it.

After last year's successful #StopTheShock campaign, the FDA noted in their fall 2018 Unified Agenda that they intend to release the rule in 2019. This is a major step toward finalizing the rule, but our work isn't done - we have to keep the pressure on until the GED is banned for good.

## What can we do now?

The FDA is already planning to release the rule, but we want to make sure they don't delay again. The #WeAreStillWaiting campaign is meant to build on last year's successes by reminding the FDA that we intend to hold them accountable until the ban is finalized.

We will be giving people ways to take action - by contacting the FDA and their congressional representatives, spreading the word on social media, hosting events and more - starting mid-March and ending in a day of action on April 24th, the 5th anniversary of the FDA hearing.

On March 19th, we will launch this year's #WeAreStillWaiting campaign, debut our new landing page at [autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock](http://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock), and begin recruiting local coordinators to host wait-ins on April 24th. We have a [dedicated guide](#) to organizing a wait-in that includes potential activities such as letter-writing, tabling in a public place, holding a call-in, or putting together a post-it wall.

On April 24th, the five year anniversary of the FDA hearing, we're asking people to take five hours, five minutes, or just five seconds out of their day to tell the FDA that #WeAreStillWaiting for the regulation to drop. Here are some things you can do -- and encourage your social media followers to do -- to observe the 5th anniversary of the hearing:

### 5 Seconds - Take a selfie or make a post

- Take a selfie of where you're waiting for the FDA to release the regulation -- on a train, at home, at school, etc. -- and share it with the hashtag #WeAreStillWaiting.
  - Example: "5 years after the @US\_FDA hearing on dangerous electric shock devices used at the JRC, #WeAreStillWaiting for them to release a ban and #StopTheShock. Today I'm waiting on the bus -- where are you waiting?"
- Make a post talking about why it matters that the FDA #StopTheShock. Make sure to also add the hashtag #WeAreStillWaiting
- Make a post documenting other steps you're taking to #StopTheShock. Make sure to also add the hashtag #WeAreStillWaiting

### 5 Minutes

- [Call or send an email to the FDA](#) to call for the immediate release of the rule.
- [Call or email your Congresspeople](#) asking them to send a letter to the FDA to encourage them to release the rule now.

## 5 Hours

- [Organize a “wait-in”](#) on April 24th to show that #WeAreStillWaiting to #StopTheShock! This can be anything from setting up an information table in a public place to hosting a letter-writing event, making a poster or art display in a high-traffic area, or asking people passing by to take a selfie and spread the word.
- [Write an op-ed or letter to the editor](#) for your local newspaper letting your neighborhood know why it is so important to #StopTheShock.
- Hold a virtual wait-in! Get a group of people together and livestream your calls, letters, and anything else you are doing to #StopTheShock.

## Social media posts

These posts can be used across social media platforms. Some posts include versions specifically for twitter, which include the twitter handle for the FDA.

### IMPORTANT NOTES ON HASHTAGS:

- The hashtag #StopTheShock does **not** have an -s on the end. When writing your own tweets, always make sure to use #StopTheShock, **not** #StopTheShocks. If you tag #StopTheShocks, your tweet will not show up in the campaign hashtag.
- Make sure to capitalize the beginning word of each letter in a hashtag (#StopTheShock, #WeAreStillWaiting, **not** #stoptheshock or #Wearestillwaiting). This enables screenreaders to read the hashtag coherently.

We have divided the posts into sets to be used at different times in the lead-up to the campaign. Many posts appear in each set. Here is how the sets differ from each other:

- In April, we begin to reference Autism Acceptance Month and urge followers to join us in taking action to help autistic people, and those with other developmental disabilities, at the JRC
- In mid-April, we stop recruiting wait-in coordinators and begin directing people to look for wait-ins in their own communities. The list of local wait-ins will not be live until mid-April, but when it goes up, it will be accessed at <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/find-your-local-wait-in/>, so it is fine to pre-schedule these tweets now.
- In the days before the April 24th Day of Action, we ramp up our promotion of the list of local wait-ins and urge people to take action, either by attending wait-ins or doing another 5/5/5 activity. We begin to tweet more day-specific posts (e.g. “Our Day of Action is this Wednesday!” “Tomorrow is our Day of Action!” etc.)

## March

Here, we're introducing what's going on. If you only share one or two things, we recommend sharing one of the highlighted options.

I'm joining the fight to #StopTheShock at the JRC, and I need YOUR help! Find out how you can end the use of electric shock torture against people with disabilities: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/>

On April 24th, YOU can take the lead to remind the FDA that #WeAreStillWaiting for them to #StopTheShock! Sign up to lead a local wait-in here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8WQL6D>

5 years after the FDA held a hearing on dangerous electric shock devices used to torture disabled students at the Judge Rotenberg Center, #WeAreStillWaiting for them to take action. Whether you have 5 hours, 5 minutes, or 5 seconds, you can do something to #StopTheShock. Learn more here: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/>

- *For Twitter:* 5 years after @US\_FDA held a hearing on electric shock torture at the JRC, #WeAreStillWaiting for them to take action. Whether you have 5 hours, 5 minutes, or 5 seconds, you can do something to #StopTheShock. Learn more here: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/>

The FDA has made progress towards ending shock torture at the Judge Rotenberg Center, but #WeAreStillWaiting for the final rule. Find out what YOU can do to #StopTheShock. <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/>

- *For Twitter:* The @US\_FDA has made progress towards ending shock torture at the Judge Rotenberg Center, but #WeAreStillWaiting for the final rule. Find out what YOU can do to #StopTheShock. <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/>

This April 24th will mark 5 years since the the FDA hearing that led them to recommend banning electric shock devices used at the Judge Rotenberg Center. #WeAreStillWaiting for them to #StopTheShock - learn more here. <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/factsheet>

- *For Twitter:* This April 24th will mark 5 years since the @US\_FDA hearing that led them to recommend banning electric shock devices used at the Judge Rotenberg Center. #WeAreStillWaiting for them to #StopTheShock - learn more here. <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/factsheet>

You can help #StopTheShock! Sign up here to lead a local wait-in on April 24th, and remind the FDA that #WeAreStillWaiting: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8WQL6D>

New to the movement to #StopTheShock? Learn about what's happening at the Judge Rotenberg Center and how YOU can work to stop it: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/stop-the-shock-fact-sheet-2019.pdf> #WeAreStillWaiting

## **Early April**

This is where we begin urging people to take action. If you only share one or two things, we recommend sharing one of the highlighted options.

April is Autism Acceptance Month, and acceptance is an action. I am taking action by reminding the FDA that #WeAreStillWaiting for them to act to #StopTheShock torture at the JRC. Join me: [autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock](https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock)

- *For twitter:* April is Autism Acceptance Month, and acceptance is an action. I am taking action by reminding @US\_FDA that #WeAreStillWaiting for them to act to #StopTheShock torture at the JRC. Join me: [autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock](https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock)

On April 24th, YOU can take the lead to remind the FDA that #WeAreStillWaiting for them to #StopTheShock! Sign up to lead a local wait-in here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8WQL6D>

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- *For twitter:* 5 years after @US\_FDA held a hearing on electric shock torture at the JRC, #WeAreStillWaiting for them to take action. Whether you have 5 hours, 5 minutes, or 5 seconds, you can do something to #StopTheShock. Learn more here: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/>

5 years after the FDA hearing on electric shock torture at the JRC, they still haven't released the final ban. Today, I'm taking 5 minutes to #StopTheShock by **[calling/ emailing]** the FDA to remind them that #WeAreStillWaiting! Learn how to take action here: <http://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/fda>

Today, I'm taking 5 minutes to #StopTheShock by **[calling/emailing]** my Members of Congress. #WeAreStillWaiting for the FDA to end electric shock torture at the JRC, and we need our elected officials to join us. Learn how to take action: <http://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/congress>

You can help #StopTheShock! Sign up here to lead a local wait-in on April 24th, and remind the FDA that #WeAreStillWaiting: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8WQL6D>

I'm making acceptance an action this #AutismAcceptanceMonth by telling the FDA #WeAreStillWaiting for them to #StopTheShock torture of our community members at the JRC. Find out what's going on and how we fight back: [autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock](https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock)

## Mid-April

Here, we begin ramping up urging people to go to wait-ins in their own community. If you only share one or two things, we recommend sharing one of the highlighted options.

#WeAreStillWaiting for the FDA to #StopTheShock at the Judge Rotenberg Center. I'll be waiting at my local day of action on April 24th. Find out what people in your area are doing here: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/find-your-local-wait-in/>

This April 24th, I'll be joining my local disability community to #StopTheShock! Organizers all over the US are working together to tell the FDA #WeAreStillWaiting. Join us! <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/find-your-local-wait-in/>

5 years after the FDA held a hearing on dangerous electric shock devices used to torture disabled students at the Judge Rotenberg Center, #WeAreStillWaiting for them to take action. Whether you have 5 hours, 5 minutes, or 5 seconds, you can do something to #StopTheShock. Learn more here: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/>

- *For Twitter:* 5 years after @US\_FDA held a hearing on electric shock torture at the JRC, #WeAreStillWaiting for them to take action. Whether you have 5 hours, 5 minutes, or 5 seconds, you can do something to #StopTheShock. Learn more here: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/>

April is Autism Acceptance Month, and acceptance is an action. I'm taking action by reminding the FDA that #WeAreStillWaiting for them to #StopTheShock torture at the JRC. Join me: [autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock](https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock)

- *For Twitter:* April is Autism Acceptance Month, and acceptance is an action. I'm taking action by reminding @US\_FDA that #WeAreStillWaiting for them to #StopTheShock torture at the JRC. Join me: [autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock](https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock)

5 years after the FDA hearing on electric shock torture at the JRC, they still haven't released the final ban. Today, I'm taking 5 minutes to #StopTheShock by **[calling/ emailing]** the FDA to remind them that #WeAreStillWaiting! Learn how to take action here: [http://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/fda](https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/fda)

Today, I'm taking 5 minutes to #StopTheShock by **[calling/emailing]** my Members of Congress. #WeAreStillWaiting for the FDA to end electric shock torture at the JRC, and we need our elected officials to join us. Learn how to take action: [http://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/congress](https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/congress)

I'm making acceptance an action this #AutismAcceptanceMonth by telling the FDA #WeAreStillWaiting for them to stop the use of shock torture against our community members at the JRC. Find out what's going on and how we fight back here: [autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock](https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock)

## **Late April/Lead Up To Day of Action**

Here, we are strongly ramping up the 5/5/5 messaging, and encouraging people to act on our day of action. If you only share one or two things, we recommend sharing one of the highlighted options.

Five years after the FDA held a hearing on electric shock torture at the Judge Rotenberg Center, #WeAreStillWaiting for them to #StopTheShock. Take five seconds to spread the word, five minutes to call the FDA, or five hours at an action **[on 4/24! / THIS WEDNESDAY! / TOMORROW!]** [autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock](https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock)

- *For Twitter:* 5 years after @US\_FDA held a hearing on electric shock torture at the Judge Rotenberg Center, #WeAreStillWaiting for them to #StopTheShock. Take 5 seconds to spread the word, 5 minutes to call to the FDA, or 5 hours at an action **[on 4/24! / THIS WEDNESDAY! / TOMORROW!]** [autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock](https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock)

#WeAreStillWaiting for the FDA to end electric shock torture at the JRC - **[on 4/24, / THIS WEDNESDAY, / TOMORROW,]** I'll be waiting at my local day of action to #StopTheShock! Find out what people in your area are doing here: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/find-your-local-wait-in/>

**[On 4/24 / THIS WEDNESDAY / TOMORROW],** I'll be joining my local disability community to #StopTheShock! Organizers all over the US are working together to tell the FDA #WeAreStillWaiting. Join us! <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/find-your-local-wait-in/>

5 years after the FDA hearing on electric shock torture at the JRC, they still haven't released the final ban. Today, I'm taking 5 minutes to #StopTheShock by **[calling/ emailing]** the FDA to remind them that #WeAreStillWaiting! Learn how to take action here: <http://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/fda>

Today, I'm taking 5 minutes to #StopTheShock by **[calling/emailing]** my Members of Congress. #WeAreStillWaiting for the FDA to end electric shock torture at the JRC, and we need our elected officials to join us. Learn how to take action: <http://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/congress>

I'm making acceptance an action this #AutismAcceptanceMonth by telling the FDA #WeAreStillWaiting for them to stop the use of shock torture against our community members at the JRC. Learn about our day of action **[on 4/24 / THIS WEDNESDAY / TOMORROW]:** [autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock](https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock)

## **April 24th - Day of Action**

*Note: It's a great idea to RT and share others posting in the hashtags #WeAreStillWaiting and #StopTheShock on this day especially*

TODAY marks 5 years since the FDA held a hearing on electric shock torture at the Judge Rotenberg Center, and #WeAreStillWaiting for them to #StopTheShock. Whether you have 5 seconds, 5 minutes or 5 hours, you can take action with posts, calls, emails, or at a local wait-in! [autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock](http://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock)

I'm proud to join disability rights advocates across the country in a day of action to #StopTheShock at the Judge Rotenberg Center! I am taking action TODAY to remind the FDA that #WeAreStillWaiting for the final rule - join me! [autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock](http://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock)

It's not too late to join a local wait-in TODAY and tell the FDA that #WeAreStillWaiting for them to #StopTheShock! Find out what people in your area are doing here: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/find-your-local-wait-in/>

TODAY is the day of action, and I'll be joining my local disability community to #StopTheShock! Organizers all over the US are working together to tell the FDA #WeAreStillWaiting. Join us! <https://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/find-your-local-wait-in/>

*(post with a selfie): #WeAreStillWaiting for the FDA to #StopTheShock at the Judge Rotenberg Center. I'm waiting [**at home/at work/in class etc.**]. Where are you waiting?*

- For Twitter: #WeAreStillWaiting for @US\_FDA to #StopTheShock at the Judge Rotenberg Center. I'm waiting [**at home/at work/in class etc.**]. Where are you waiting?

*(for posting pictures of wait-ins): #WeAreStillWaiting for the FDA to #StopTheShock at the Judge Rotenberg Center. In [**your city**], we're waiting in [**our wait in location**] - show us where you're waiting!*

- For Twitter: #WeAreStillWaiting for @US\_FDA to #StopTheShock at the Judge Rotenberg Center. In [**your city**], we're waiting in [**our wait in location**] - show us where you're waiting!

Today, I'm asking you to call or email the FDA and demand they #StopTheShock! Find scripts you can use to tell them that #WeAreStillWaiting here: <http://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/fda>

Today, I'm asking you to call or email your Members of Congress and ask that they send a letter telling the FDA to #StopTheShock! #WeAreStillWaiting, and we need our elected officials to join us. Find scripts here: <http://autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock/congress>

## Graphics

Use these graphics alongside social media posts, to help draw attention. Please include the attached image description so that people who use screen readers can understand what's in the image. [Download the images on this page.](#)

If you need help understanding how to do that, [here's a guide.](#)



[Image description: An illustration of a warning sign. At the top, white text on a red background reads: ATTENTION! Below that is large text which reads: "PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE STILL BEING TORTURED AT THE JRC." Next to the text is a warning symbol depicting a person being electrocuted against a yellow triangle background. Below the warning symbol is text reading #StopTheShock. There is a post-it note on the sign that says #WeAreStillWaiting.]



[Image description: Different colored post-it notes that say #StopTheShock, #WeAreStillWaiting, and autisticadvocacy.org/stoptheshock.]