

Banning Electric Skin Shock Devices: Hill Day Talking Points

Ask your Members of Congress to include a complete ban on the use of electric skin shock devices in the 2022 end of year omnibus bill. An omnibus bill is a bill that covers a lot of different ways the government will spend money, so we are able to include things like this ban.

- These devices are only used in one place. That place is the Judge Rotenberg Center (JRC).
- These devices are being used to torture disabled people. Autistic people and people with other disabilities are being shocked. They are being shocked for things like: getting out of their chair, not taking off their coat, or making noises.
- The FDA held a hearing about the devices five years ago. Their panel of experts found that the devices were too dangerous. It found there was no good reason to keep using them.
- In 2020, the FDA passed a ban on the devices. This ban gave the JRC 180 days to stop using the device on people. Instead of no longer shocking people, the JRC went to court to stop the ban.
- In 2021, a court overturned the FDA's ban on a technicality. The court claimed the ban didn't count because the FDA could only ban things for all the ways they could be used, not one way they could be used.

- This year Congress had the chance to include a ban on the device in the FDA user fees reauthorization bill, but the Senate chose to pass a “clean” version of the bill that had no new pieces in it.
- This means that disabled people are still being tortured!
- Now is the time for your member of Congress to help end electric shock torture. Help us get a ban included in the end of year omnibus bill.

There is a **letter on the Judge Rotenberg Center and electric skin shock** in your folder. Please leave a copy of the letter with each office you visit.

This letter tells Hill offices what ASAN thinks about electric skin shock and the JRC. It also gives the Hill offices a way to follow up with ASAN.