

Patients Protest for Adult Day Care

Over 20,000 in the county rely on the centers for health services.

By [Jerome Campbell](#) and [Vicki Chen](#)
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Hundreds of people protested in Downtown Los Angeles against the state's decision to close all adult daycare centers by the end of the month.

Patients and caregivers spoke out Monday against cutting adult day health centers. Medical benefit caregivers are concerned that many patients will face greater health risks if they are forced to move to nursing homes and hospitals. Many have histories of heart attacks, dementia and various health problems and will not have access to proper healthcare providers if these centers.



Courtesy of Vicki Chen

In L.A. County, 22,000 sick and disabled senior citizens depend on the centers for health and community services. Medical beneficiaries and health care providers have filed a disability rights lawsuit in an effort to reverse the state's decision. A court date is scheduled for Nov. 8.

"This is the best place where I can stay," said 93-year-old Celia Vagothien. "When I come to the center, this is my home and they help me live. [The service] gives me medicine, everything to be loved and to be alive...If they close, I will be in the hospital and it will [cost more] money."

As patients stand outside these services, many showcase the solemn faces of those affected by adult health care repeals.

Abram Vofson, a resident of Adult Healthcare since it opened in 2002, says the service has prolonged his life. A WWII veteran for Belarus, Vofson has lived in the U.S. over 30 years after he retired from military service. Being handicapped, adult health day services provides Vofson would otherwise not have.