The Disability Integration Act

Over 25 years after the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), institutionalization seriously interferes with the liberty of people with disabilities and seniors. The Senate HELP Committee report “Separate and Unequal: States Fail to Fulfill the Community Living Promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act” documented the failure of States to secure and protect the liberty of people with disabilities and seniors by refusing to provide community-based services. That report recommended that Congress strengthen the ADA integration mandate to clarify that States and private insurers cannot interfere with every American’s right to liberty by failing to provide Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) in the community.

Summary of Legislation

The Disability Integration Act ensures that people with disabilities have a right to live and receive services in their own homes. The DIA further secures our constitutionally protected right to liberty by preventing disabled people from being forced into costly institutional settings by unnecessary government regulations.

Legislative Approach

The Disability Integration Act (S.117/H.R. 555), introduced by Minority Leader Schumer (D-NY) and Gardner (R-CO) and Representative Sensenbrenner (R-WI), and supported by Senator Jon Tester (D-MT), creates a comprehensive solution, assuring the full integration of disabled people in the community by:

- clarifying that every individual who is eligible for LTSS has a federally protected right to a real choice in how they receive services and supports;
- assuring that states and other LTSS insurance providers deliver services in a manner that allows disabled individuals to live in the most integrated setting, have maximum control over their services and supports, and lead an independent life;
- articulates the right to live in the community without creating unnecessary or wasteful Government programs; States have broad latitude to determine how they will secure that right;
- establishing a comprehensive planning requirement that includes enforceable benchmarks;
- requiring public entities to address the need for affordable, accessible, integrated housing that is independent of service delivery; and establishing stronger, targeted enforcement mechanisms.
Why You Should Support DIA

- It secures the Constitutional right to liberty for millions of disabled people and seniors who are in institutions and want to live in the community.
- It helps aging seniors stay in their own homes.
- It saves millions of Federal and State dollars compared with institutionalization.
- It keeps families together.

Support for this Legislation

This legislation has broad-based support of organizations with over 100 national groups, and over 600 groups in all. It was crafted by ADAPT & the National Council on Independent Living. Key supporters include:

- ACLU
- American Association of People with Disabilities
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities
- Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
- Brain Injury Association of America
- Center for Public Representation
- DREDF
- Human Rights Campaign
- National Council on Aging
- National Disability Leadership Alliance
- National Downs Syndrome Congress
- National Association of the Deaf
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- The Arc of the United States
- The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
- United Spinal Association
- Women’s March

This issue has significant untapped public support. In 2010, ADAPT secured a Harris poll assessing public support. The poll showed that 89% of all Americans, and 94% of retirees, support legislation which would require people to get home and community-based supports and services instead of forcing older and disabled Americans into nursing facilities and other institutions.

More information, including the full supporter list, is available at the DIA website: www.DisabilityIntegrationAct.org

For additional information, please contact Dara Baldwin: dara.baldwin@ncdr.us

THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN THE COMMUNITY is logically prior to, and necessary for, the exercise of the rights which the ADA was intended to secure for all people with disabilities.

The lack of adequate community-based services and supports has imperiled the civil rights of all people with disabilities, and has undermined the very promise of the ADA.

It is, therefore, necessary to recognize in statute a robust and fully-articulated right to community living.
Democrats Stand with Americans with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act guarantees that no one should face discrimination based on their disability. Since the passage of the landmark civil rights law, four presidential administrations have worked to enforce the protections and regulations that ensure equality and inclusion for people with disabilities. However, the Trump administration and congressional Republicans are actively working to strip away the civil rights of disabled Americans by weakening enforcement of the ADA, including gutting the Affordable Care Act, decreasing inclusion in schools for those with disabilities, cutting independent living programs, and reducing job training and workforce accessibility programs.

While Republicans roll back protections for people with disabilities, the Democratic Party is working to expand equal opportunities, increase participation in our workforce, and improve accessibility to independent living for people with disabilities. The right to live in the community is a civil and constitutional right too often denied to Disabled Americans, even though we know that home and community-based services and supports are not only what people want, but are also more cost-effective. That’s why Senate Democrats introduced the Disability Integration Act, a bipartisan bill to ensure that no Disabled American is denied their right and opportunity to live freely and independently in the community. This legislation, when enacted, will give people with disabilities who remain in institutions a chance to experience the same dignity and freedom as every other citizen. Democrats are proud to support this landmark civil rights legislation and support the Disability community working to secure its passage.

Democrats will continue our efforts to defend the Americans with Disabilities Act against attacks intended to undercut the rights of people with disabilities, and we will work to ensure that workers with disabilities are no longer denied the workforce protections available to every other American. We support one fair wage for all workers by
ending the sub-minimum wage for people with disabilities under Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Unfortunately, congressional Republicans haven’t shown any willingness to stand up for the people they’re supposed to represent. In fact, they’re making things worse:

The Republican budget would end Medicare and Medicaid as we know them in exchange for corporate tax cuts—while slashing job training and education programs that ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to thrive.

The House tax plan would trigger automatic cuts to essential programs, including $25 billion from Medicare next year alone.

The GOP tax plan would eliminate the medical expense deduction that millions of people with disabilities and their families use to help with the costs of nursing home care and other very high out-of-pocket health care costs.

The House Republican tax plan would eliminate a tax credit that incentivizes businesses to hire people with disabilities.

The GOP tax plan would eliminate a tax credit that businesses use to retrofit to be more accessible.

The Trump administration recently rescinded education guidelines that detail the rights of students with disabilities in schools.

Democrats are proud to partner with Disabled Activists to fight back against these attacks and for full integration and independence for Disabled Americans.
STATEMENT: CAP’s Rebecca Cokley on Endorsing the Disability Integration Act

Date: May 15, 2018
Contact: Kyle Epstein
Email: kepstein@americanprogress.org

Washington, D.C. — Today, the Center for American Progress endorsed the Disability Integration Act, a bipartisan, bicameral bill that would ensure that disabled Americans have the right to live and receive essential services in the comfort of their own homes. Rebecca Cokley, a senior fellow for Disability Policy at the Center for American Progress, issued the following statement in response:

One in five Americans lives with disabilities. Yet, for too long, disability has lived in a silo, separate from broader conversations about progressive policy. CAP is proud to be the first and only progressive think tank with a dedicated disability project. It’s why we value our strong partnership with ADAPT and other leaders in the disability community—particularly at a time when President Donald Trump and his colleagues in Congress are advancing policies that would set disability rights back by half a century or more, such as dismantling Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. And it’s why we’re proud to be a leader in breaking down silos to ensure that the disability community is at the table and that the progressive community has the disability community’s back. Disturbingly, nearly three decades after the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law, too many Americans with disabilities are still fighting for the right to live independently, rather than in isolating institutions. This must end. CAP commends ADAPT for its leadership in raising awareness about this injustice and is proud to support the Disability Integration Act.

Bruce Darling, a national organizer for ADAPT, issued the following statement:
CAP has recognized that structural ableism has excluded disabled voices from many policymaking tables. It has actively worked to include people with disabilities in its work and on its staff. We commend CAP for its leadership on this and for their enthusiastic support of the Disability Integration Act, which will ensure disabled Americans are able to live in freedom.

For more information or to speak with an expert, please contact Kyle Epstein at kepstein@americanprogress.org or 202.481.8137.
May 11, 2018

To:
Senate HELP Committee –
Senator Lamar Alexander, Chair
Senator Patty Murray, Ranking Member

House Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
Representative Michael Burgess, Chair
Representative Gene Green, Ranking Member

House Judiciary Committee
Subcommittee on The Constitution and Civil Justice
Representative Steve King, Chair
Representative Steve Cohen, Ranking Member

Dear Senators and Representatives,

The 610 organizations undersigned below are civil, disability, human and environmental rights as well as faith based groups who support The Disability Integration Act of 2017 (DIA) (S. 910/H.R. 2472) and request Congress to engage in legislative action and swiftly pass this bill. The DIA is bipartisan, bicameral legislation that would secure the Constitutional right to liberty for millions of Americans with disabilities by ensuring that they have the choice to receive home- and community-based services (HCBS) and supports needed to live an independent life, instead of institutionalization.

For too many years, thousands of people with disabilities have been isolated and segregated in institutional settings, where they lose the opportunity to be full participants in society. This includes children, youth, adults and seniors with disabilities. As the Supreme Court has observed, “confinement in an institution severely diminishes the everyday life activities of individuals, including family relations, social contacts, work options, economic independence, educational advancement, and cultural enrichment,” *Olmstead v. L.C. ex rel. Zimring*, 527 U.S. 581, 601, 119 S. Ct. 2176, 2187 (1999) and furthermore, institutionalizing people who could live in community settings “perpetuates unwarranted assumptions that persons so isolated are incapable or unworthy of participating in community life.” *Olmstead*, 527 U.S. at 583, 119 S. Ct. at 2179, (1999).

Even with The Supreme Court’s *Olmstead* decision, the limited availability of home- and community-based services leave people with disabilities no option but unwanted institutionalization. This prevents them from exercising a right to live where they choose, get an education and participate in everyday life activities such as work, worship and all other things – liberties that are often taken for granted by most non-disabled Americans. In addition to being denied the right to live in the setting of their choice, individuals with disabilities, seniors and their families face unnecessary financial and emotional distress when facing unwanted institutionalization.
The Disability Integration Act would ensure that people with disabilities and seniors who require long term supports and services are able to remain in their homes, stay with their families and continue to contribute to their communities.

We look forward to working with Congress to pass this urgent, important legislation that will prevent many American families from being torn apart because a disabled family member can only receive the supports and services they need in an institution. DIA needs your support, and disabled Americans need you to pass the legislation now.

National Organizations

#CripTheVote
ADAPT
Adaptive Adventures
Advance CLASS
Advocates for Justice
American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)
American Association on Health and Disability
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)
American Civil Liberties Union
American Council of the Blind American
Foundation for the Blind American
Physical Therapy Association
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Autism Women’s Network
Autism Society
AutismHWY
Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
BiNet USA
Brain Injury Association of America
Caring Across Generations
Cascadia Deaf Nation
Center for Public Representation
Center for the Human Rights of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Change Catalyst
CPD Action
Democratic National Committee
Disability Action for America
Disability Power and Pride
Disability Resource Center
Disability Rights Education & Defense Funds (DREDF)
Disabled Parenting Project
Diverse Disability Media
DREAM - Disability Rights, Education, Activism, & Mentoring
Everyday Psych Victims Project
ExpandMedicaidNow Impact
Families USA
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
Getting Back Up
Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network
Griffin-Hammis Associates, Inc.
Health and Disability Advocates
Health Over Profit for Everyone
Healthcare Rights Coalition
HOPE TBI
Human Rights Campaign
Humanity Enabled
Indivisible
Institute for Disability Studies and Policy
Justice in Aging
Law Project for Psychiatric Rights
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Lifelong Adoptions
Little Lobbyists
Little People of America
Lutheran Services in America Disability Network
Medicare Rights Center (MRC)
MindFreedom International
MODELCI Disability Inclusion
MoveOn.org
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA)
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Association of the Deaf
National Center For Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition for Latinx with Disabilities
National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery
National Council on Aging (NCOA)
National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)
National Disability Leadership Alliance (NDLA)
National Disability Mentoring Coalition
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Federation of the Blind
National Health Law Program
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization of Nurses with Disabilities (NOND)
National Respite Coalition
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
NMD United, Inc.
Northern Nevada Working Families Party
NOS Magazine
Not Dead Yet (NDY)
Orange Theory Fitness
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute (PHI)
Parent to Parent USA
Perkins School for the Blind
Post-Polio Health International Progressive Democrats Of America
Project LETS
Queerability
Road to Freedom Bus Tour
Rooted in Rights
Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE)
Self-Advocacy leadership Team (SALT)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Social Security Works
Solve ME/CFS Initiative
Street Pictures
TASH
The ADA Legacy Project
The Advocacy Institute
The Arc of the United States
The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
The Community Consortium
The Congress of Disabled Persons Against Exploitation
The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
The Sunrise Group
The USA Sports Council
Together We Will USA
Transverse Myelitis Association
UltraViolet
United Cerebral Palsy
United Spinal Association
Women's March
Women's March on Washington - Disability Caucus
World Institute on Disability

State and Local Organizations

Alabama
Disability Rights & Resources
Housing Opportunities Made Equal of VA

Alaska
Access Alaska
SILC of Alaska
Arizona
Ability360
DIRECT Center for Independence
New Horizons Disability Empowerment Center
People Demanding Action Arizona
Services Maximizing IL & Empowerment

Arkansas
Arkansas Association of the Deaf
Disability Resource & Advocacy Center
Disability Rights Arkansas
Palco, Inc
Spa Area Independent Living Services

California
ADAPT Los Angeles
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC)
California Independent Living
California State Independent Living Council
Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities
Center for Independent Living
Central Coast Center for Independent Living
Communities Actively Living Independent and Free - CALIF
Community Resources for Independent Living
Dayle McIntosh Center
Designing Accessible Communities
Disability Resource Agency for Independent Living
Disabled Resources Center, Inc. (DRC)
FREED Center for Independent Living
Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC)
Independent Living Resource Center San Francisco
Independent Living Resources of Solano & Contra Costa Counties
Latina Mami
Lions Center for the Blind
Marin Center for Independent Living
NorCal Services for Deaf & HH
Personal Assistance Services Council
Placer Independent Resource Services
Resources for Independence Central Valley
Rev. Ellyn Kearney
RiseUp4HealthCare
Rolling Start, Inc.
SABE
Service Center for Independent Life
Silicon Valley Independent Living Center
Southern CA Resource Services for Independent Living Tri County Independent Living
Unbound Books Autism Acceptance Library
United Cerebral Palsy of Central Florida
Westside Center for Independent Living

**Colorado**
Atlantis Community Incorporated
Center for People With Disabilities
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition
Colorado Mental Wellness Network
Connections for Independent Living
Parent to Parent
Southwest Center for Independence
The Independence Center - Colorado Springs

**Connecticut**
Center for Disability Rights
Connecticut Fair Housing Center
Connecticut Legal Rights Project, Inc.
CT Cross-Disability Lifespan Alliance
CT State Independent Living Council (CT-SILC)
Independence Northwest, Inc.
Independence Unlimited, Inc.
Mental Health Connecticut
NAMI Connecticut
Women’s March on Washington--Connecticut Chapter

**Delaware**
ADAPT Delaware
Freedom Center for Independent Living
Independent Resources, Inc.

**District of Columbia**
DC Metro ADAPT
DC Metro Democratic Socialists of America
Disability InterSectionality
National Fair Housing Alliance
St. John's Community Services
The District of Columbia Center for Independent Living, Inc
Washington Metro Disabled Students Collective
**Florida**
CIL in Central Florida
Center for Independent Living of South Florida Disability Achievement Center
First Coast Disability Advocates
The ILRC of Northeast Florida
The Sunrise Group

**Georgia**
Access to a Better Tomorrow, Inc.
Albany Advocacy Resource Center
Athens Inclusive Recreation and Sports
Atlanta Post Polio Association
Be The Change
Disability Action Center of Georgia, Inc. (disABILITY LINK)
Disabled Queers In Action
Frazer Center
Georgia ADAPT
Georgia Advocacy Office
Georgia Association for the Deaf
Georgia Options, Inc.
Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.
NWGA Center for Independent Living
Parent to Parent of Georgia
People First of Atlanta
People First of Georgia
Seminole Spirit
Sign Systems, LLC
Speak Foundation
Statewide Independent Living Council of GA, Inc
The Arc Georgia
The Specialty Nurse Company, Inc.

**Hawaii**
Aloha Independent Living Hawaii
Statewide Independent Living Council of Hawaii

**Idaho**
All Seasons
DisAbility Rights Idaho
Disability Action Center
Disability Action Center - NW, Inc.
Idaho Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health
Idaho State Independent Living Council
Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC)
Living Independently For Everyone, Inc. (LIFE, Inc.)
United Action for Idaho
United Vision for Idaho

**Illinois**
Aardvark Insurance
Ability Chicago
Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago
Achieving Independence and Mobility Center for Independent Living
Alliance for Community Services
Anixter Center
Apostolic Faith Church
Black Network In Children's Emotional Health (BNICEH)
Center on Halsted
Central Synagogue of Chicago
Chicago ADAPT
Chicago Disability Activism Collective
Chicago House and Social Service Agency
ChicagoPride.com
Chiro One
Church of the Three Crosses
Citizens Utility Board
Disability Policy Office, Chicago Park District
Disability Pride Parade
Equip for Equality
Edgewater Reads
Elderworks Educational Services
Folk That LLC
HOPE Fair Housing Center
IMPACT CIL
Illinois Iowa Center for Independent Living
Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living
Illinois Parents of Adults with Developmental Disabilities (IPADD)
 Illinois Single-Payer Coalition
Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living
Inclusion PAC
Independence Plus Inc
Independent Movement of Paratransit Riders for Unity, Vehicles, Equality (IMPRUVE)
Jacksonville Area Center for Independent Living
LIFE Center for Independent Living
LINC, Inc
Lake County Center for Independent Living
MFTD Waiver Families
MOMENTA
McKee Family Foundation
New Star
Nexus Radio
Options Center for Independent Living
Organizing Neighborhoods for Equality: Northside (ONE Northside)
PACE, Inc. Center for Independent Living
Physicians for a National Health Program Illinois
Progress Center for Independent Living
RAMP Center for Independent Living
Roustabout Media
Self Advocate
Springfield Center for Independent Living (SCIL)
Southern Illinois Center for Independent Living
St Paul's House
Soyland Access to Independent Living (SAIL)
Springfield Center for Independent Living
Stone-Hayes Center for Independent Living
The Habitat Company
Thomas Clark Law
Thresholds
Trisomy Families, Inc.
Wellington Ave. United Church of Christ
West Central IL Center for Independent Living
Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living

Indiana
AccessABILITY Center for Independent Living
Attic, Inc.
Delta State Polythenic
Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana
Fort Wayne Clubhouse / The Carriage House
Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council (INSILC)
The League
The Wabash Independent Living & Learning Center, Inc.
Turnstone

Iowa
Brett's Buddies
Disabilities Resource Center of Siouxland
Heart of Iowa Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)
Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services
MP Climb On
Kansas
Beach Center on Disability
Coalition For Independence
Disability Rights Center of Kansas
Independent Living Resource Center
Kansas ADAPT
Kansas City Disability Leadership Coalition
Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities
Prairie Independent Living Resource Center, Inc. (PILR)
Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc.
Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas
SKIL Resource Center
Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas
Three Rivers Inc.
Topeka Independent Living Resource Center

Kentucky
Blofish
Center for Accessible Living
disABILITY Resource Center of Southeast Kentucky
Independence Place
Resources for Independence

Louisiana
@Southwest Louisiana Independence Center, Inc.
Advocacy Center of Louisiana
New Horizons Independent Living Center
People First of Louisiana
Southwest Louisiana Independent Center
The Advocacy Center of Louisiana

Maine
Alpha One
OHI
Wild River Consulting Corp

Maryland
Baltimore County Green Party
Bay Area Center for Independent Living, Inc.
Healthcare is a Human right Maryland
Independence Now
Indivisible North Baltimore County
Indivisible Towson
Maryland ADAPT
The Freedom Center
The IMAGE Center of Maryland
Together We Will -- Baltimore Area

Massachusetts
AdLib, Inc.
Boston Center for Independent Living
Disability Policy Consortium
Independence Associates, Inc.
Independent Living Center of the North Shore and Cape Ann, Inc
MA Pediatric Home Nursing Care Campaign
MassADAPT
MetroWest Center for Independent Living
Multi-Cultural Independent Living Center of Boston
Northeast Independent Living Program Inc.
RYAN LEVIA
Stavros Center for Independent Living
TASH New England
The Meeting Point

Michigan
ADAPT Michigan
Community Living Services, Inc.
Disability Network Northern Michigan
Disability Network Southwest Michigan
Grand Rapids ADAPT
Kent Regional Inclusive Community Coalition
MI Disability Rights Coalition
Michigan Deaf Association
Michigan Statewide Independent Living Council
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys- Michigan Chapter
Peer Action Alliance

Minnesota
Happy Hands LLP
Options Interstate Resource Center for Independent Living
Southeastern MN Center for Independent Living (SEMCIL)
Southern MN. Independent Living Enterprises & Services (SMILES)
Trisomy Families, Inc.
United Cerebral Palsy of Central MN
Zstudio
Mississippi
Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities
Living Independence for Everyone
LIFE of Mississippi

Missouri
Paraquad, Inc.
Rural Advocates for Independent Living
SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence
Southwest Central for Independent Living (SCIL)

Montana
ADAPT Montana
Disability Rights Montana
Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow
Montana Independent Living Project
Not Dead Yet Montana
Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
Summit Independent Living Center, Inc.

Nebraska
Autism Women’s Network
Independence Rising
Indivisible Omaha
Panhandle Independent Living Services

New Hampshire
Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living

New Jersey
Alliance Center for Independence
Camden City Independent Living Center
Center for Independent Living of South Jersey Inc.
DIAL Center for Independent Living
Heightened Independence and Progress (HIP)
Progressive Center for Independent Living
Reach Your Potential USA, Inc.
Resources for Independent Living, Inc.
Stockton University Disability Studies
New Mexico
AAA Participant Direction
Independent Living Resource Center
New Vistas Center for Independent Living
Professional Women with Disabilities Network
San Juan Center for Independence-Gallup

New York
1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East
ARISE
Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc.
Action Toward Independence
Advocates For Autism, LLC
All About You Homecare (AAY)
BRiDGES
Brain Injury Association of New York State
Bronx Independent Living Services (BILS)
CNY Solidarity Coalition
Capital District Center for Independence, Inc
Catskill Center for Independence
Center for Disability Rights (CDR)
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY (CIDNY)
Concepts of Independence
Consumer Directed Choices
Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of New York
Deaf Community Advocacy
Disability Rights New York
Disabled In Action of Metropolitan New York (DIA)
Empire State Association of the Deaf
Finger Lakes Independence Center
Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, INC
Harlem Independent Living Center
Healing Reign Christian Church
Housing Works
Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley
Independent Living, Inc.
Kahrmann Advocacy Coalition
Larker Anthology
Long Island ADAPT
Long Island Activists
Long Island Center for Independent Living (LICIL)
Massena Independent Living Center, Inc.
Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHEP)
New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL)
New York State ADAPT
New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC)
North Country Center for Independence
North Country Access to Health Care Committee
Northern Regional Center for Independent Living
Physicians for a National Health Program New York Metro Chapter
Regional Center for Independent Living (RCIL)
Reinvention Life Coaching
Resource Center for Accessible Living (RCAL)
Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL)
Rochester ADAPT
Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SAANYS)
Southern Adirondack Independent Living Center
Southern Tier ADAPT
Southern Tier Independence Center (STIC)
Suffolk Independent Living Organization (SILO)
Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc.
The Alliance of TBI & NHTD Waiver Providers
The Viscardi Center
Voice Buffalo
Welcome Change Productions
Westchester Disabled On the Move (WDOM)
Westchester Independent Living Center (WILC)

**North Carolina**
Disability Partners
Disability Rights & Resources
Illumination Foundation of NC
Independent Living Network of NC
Joy A Shabazz Center for Disability Rights
NCSILC
The Adaptables, Inc
disAbility Resource Center

**North Dakota**
Dakota Center for Independent Living, Inc.
Freedom Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc.
Options Interstate Resource Center for Independent Living

**Ohio**
Central Ohio Fair Housing Association
Junto Unsilenced
Miami Valley Fair Housing Center
Supporters of Disability Rights in the Mid Ohio Valley, Inc
The Ability Center of Greater Toledo
The Center for Disability Empowerment
Toledo Fair Housing Center
Western Reserve Independent Living Center

**Oklahoma**
Ability Resources, Inc.
Dynamic independence
Oklahomans for Independent Living
Progressive Independence

**Oregon**
Allies, LLC
Disability Rights Center
Disability Rights Oregon
Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living (EOCIL)
Handicap Awareness & Support League (HASL)
Lane Independent Living Alliance (LILA)
Oregon State Independent Living Council
SPOKES Unlimited
Umpqua Valley disAbilities Network

**Pennsylvania**
Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Pittsburgh Chapter
Center for Independent Living
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
Consumer Workforce Council of PA
Disabled in Action of PA
Disability Options Network
EDGE Philly
Education Rights Network
Independence EDGE Studio
Liberty Resources, Inc
Out of Order Philadelphia: Queer Disability Justice Project
Pennsylvania Council on Independent Living
Pennsylvania Statewide Independent Living Council (PASILC)
Pennsylvania Together
Philadelphia Parent Support Groups
Philly Bi Visibility
Roads To Freedom; Center for Independent Living
Roxborough Parent Support Group
The Good Peoples Group
Three Rivers Center for Independent Living
Tri-County Patriots for Independent Living
Tuesdays With Toomey
United Home Care Workers of Pennsylvania
Vision for Equality, Inc
Voices for Independence
West Philadelphia Parent Support Group
Western PA ADAPT

Puerto Rico
Movimiento para el alcance de vida independiente

Rhode Island
Rhode Island Disability Law Center

South Carolina
Able South Carolina
disAbility Resource Center (dba) AccessAbility
Indivisible Charleston

South Dakota
Independent Living Choices (ILC)
Independent Living Choices - Aberdeen
Independent Living Choices – Huron
Independent Living Choices - Mitchell
Independent Living Choices - Watertown
Independent Living Choices - Yankton
South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities

Tennessee
Empower Tennessee
Mid-South ADAPT
T.A.R.P., Inc. Center for Independent Living
The Memphis Center for Independent Living
disABILITY Resource Center

Texas
ADAPT of Brazoria County
ADAPT of Texas
ARCIL Inc.
Accessible Housing Austin (AHA!)
Brazoria County Center for Independent Living
Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living (BVCIL)
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
Community Now!
Dignidad, Igualdad y Oportunidad (DIO)
Disability Activism of ADAPT
El Paso Desert ADAPT
Family To Family Network
Fort Bend Center for Independent Living
Grupo Dignidad, Igualdad, y Oportunidad (D.I.O)
Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center, Inc.
Houston Center for Independent Living
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center
Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas (PACT)
Pride Socks
REACH Resource Centers on Independent Living
RISE Center for Independent Living
San Antonio Independent Living Services
Texas Disability Project
Texas State Independent Living Council
The Arc of El Paso
United Advocacy of El Paso
United Way of Brazoria County
Volar Center for Independent Living

Utah
Center for Persons with Disabilities
Legislative Coalition for People With Disabilities
Roads to Independence
Salt Lake County Democratic Progressive Caucus
Utah Statewide Independent Living Council

Vermont
Brain Injury Association of VT
Center on Disability and Community Inclusion
Champlain Community Services
Community of Vermont Elders
Disability Rights Vermont
Green Mountain ADAPT
Green Mountain Self-Advocates
Justice For All
Migrant Justice / Justicia Migrante
Rights and Democracy
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition
Vermont Center for Independent Living
Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights
Vermont Legal Aid
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Vermont Psychiatric Survivors, Inc.
Vermont Statewide Independent Council
Vermont Workers’ Center
Voices for Vermont's Children

Virginia
Appalachian Independence Center, Inc.
Blue Ridge Independent Living Center
Clinch Independent Living Services
Corpus: Disabled Student Group
Disability Resource Center of the Rappahannock Area, Inc
Eastern Shore Center for Independent Living, INC
Endependence Center Inc.
Independence Empowerment Center
Junction Center for Independent Living, Inc
Lynchburg Area Center for Independent Living, Inc
Parent to Parent of Virginia
Resources for Independent Living Inc
Valley Associates for Independent Living, Inc

Washington
Bellingham Deaf and Disability Justice Collective
Center for Independence
Central Washington Disability Resources
Disability Rights Washington
Ed Wiley Autism Acceptance Library
Spokane Center for Independent Living (SCIL)

West Virginia
Appalachian Center for Independent Living
Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living
Student Access Advocates
West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council

Wisconsin
Access to Independence, Inc.
Advancing Abilities of Wisconsin
CIL for Western Wisconsin
Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin
Central Wisconsin ADAPT
Disability Pride Madison
Disability Rights Wisconsin
Forward Fox Valley
IndependenceFirst
Independent Living Resources, Inc
Indivisible Madison
Indivisible WI06
North Country Independent Living
Options for Independent Living
Southeast Wisconsin (SEWI) ADAPT
Southeastern WI Disability Rights
Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers

**Wyoming**

Wyoming Independent Living
Wyoming Institute for Disabilities

cc: United States Senate
    United States House of Representatives
The following organizations have also signed on as Disability Integration Act Supporters.

**National Organizations**

Autism Society  
Democratic National Committee  
Disability Action for America  
Families USA  
Health and Disability Advocates  
Health Over Profit for Everyone  
Institute for Disability Studies and Policy  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Health Law Program  
Orange Theory Fitness  
Rooted in Rights

**State and Local Organizations**

**California**  
Marin Center for Independent Living

**Connecticut**  
CT Cross-Disability Lifespan Alliance  
CT State Independent Living Council (CT-SILC)

**Illinois**  
Alliance for Community Services  
Apostolic Faith Church  
Center on Halsted  
Central Synagogue of Chicago  
Chicago Disability Activism Collective  
Church of the Three Crosses  
Citizens Utility Board  
Edgewater Reads  
Elderworks Educational Services  
Organizing Neighborhoods for Equality: Northside (ONE Northside)  
Roustabout Media  
Springfield Center for Independent Living (SCIL)  
St Paul's House  
The Habitat Company  
Thomas Clark Law  
Thresholds  
Wellington Ave. United Church of Christ
Iowa
Heart of Iowa Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)

Maryland
Baltimore County Green Party
Healthcare is a Human right Maryland

New Jersey
Stockton University Disability Studies

New York
Physicians for a National Health Program New York Metro Chapter

Oregon
Allies, LLC
Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living (EOCIL)
Lane Independent Living Alliance (LILA)
Umpqua Valley disAbilities Network

Pennsylvania
Disability Options Network
Education Rights Network
Pennsylvania Together
The Good Peoples Group
Tuesdays With Toomey

South Carolina
Indivisible Charleston

Utah
Salt Lake County Democratic Progressive Caucus

Washington
Disability Rights Washington

Wisconsin
Disability Rights Wisconsin
Forward Fox Valley
Indivisible Madison
Indivisible WI06
May 10, 2018

To: Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
    Minority Leader Charles Schumer

    Speaker Paul Ryan
    Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi

    Senate HELP Committee –
    Senator Lamar Alexander, Chair
    Senator Patty Murray, Ranking Member

    House Energy and Commerce
    Subcommittee on Health
    Representative Michael Burgess, Chair
    Representative Gene Green, Ranking Member

    House Judiciary Committee
    Subcommittee on The Constitution and Civil Justice
    Representative Steve King, Chair
    Representative Steve Cohen, Ranking Member

Dear Senators and Representatives,

We, the undersigned disability rights attorneys, represent a significant cross-section of disability advocates. We have among us, and in some cases individually, decades of experience advocating for the independence and equality of people with disabilities. We are writing in support of the Disability Integration Act, re-introduced in this Congress as S. 910 and H.R. 2472. This important, bipartisan civil rights legislation secures for Americans with disabilities and seniors the Constitutional right to liberty which is promised to all Americans.

The Disability Integration Act builds on the Supreme Court’s 1999 decision Olmstead v. L.C., but more than a quarter century after the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and eighteen years after Olmstead, unwanted institutionalization continues to be a serious problem for people with disabilities and seniors. This issue was documented in the HELP Committee report: “Separate and Unequal: States Fail to Fulfill the Community Living Promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act”. That report recommended that Congress amend the ADA to clarify and strengthen the law’s integration mandate in a manner that accelerates Olmstead implementation and clarifies that every individual who is eligible for LTSS under Medicaid has a federally protected right to a real choice in how they receive services and supports. The report and this recommendation were well received by the Disability Community.

Although the Disability Integration Act does not amend the ADA, the legislation, modeled on the ADA and the ADA Amendments Act, strengthens Olmstead’s integration mandate and creates federal civil rights law which addresses the civil rights
issue that people with disabilities who are stuck in institutions cannot benefit from many of the rights established under the ADA. It not only enshrines in Federal statute the right to live in the community which Olmstead recognized, it takes what disability advocates have learned over the past eighteen years and creates another more powerful tool to effect the integration of people with disabilities.

We call on you as members of Congress to pass the Disability Integration Act and to call for the President to sign it into law.

Thank you,

Steve Gold, JD.

Prof. Samuel Bagenstos, J.D. - Frank G. Millard Professor of Law at the University of Michigan (Previously Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice)

Alison Barkoff, J.D. - Director of Advocacy, Center for Public Representation (previously Special Counsel for Olmstead Enforcement at the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division)

Curtis L. Decker, J.D. - Executive Director of the National Disability Rights Network

Vanita Gupta, J.D. - CEO, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (previously Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General and head of the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division)

Jennifer Mathis, J.D. - Deputy Legal Director and Director of Policy and Legal Advocacy of the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

Silvia Yee, Esq. - Senior Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

James Weisman, Esq. - President & CEO United Spinal Association

A. Adam Prizio, Esq. - New York
A.J. Ruben, Esq. - Disability Rights Vermont
Amy Phalon, Esq. - Murray Plumb & Murray
Amy Robertson, Esq. - Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center
Andrew Milne, Esq. - Disability Rights Center - New Hampshire
Ariel Linet, Esq. - Disability Rights Maine
Barry C. Taylor, J.D. - Equip for Equality
Ben Sahl, Esq. - Disability Rights Center - New Hampshire
Caitlin Parton, Esq. - Disability Law Center
Christine Griffin, Esq. - Disability Law Center
Corye Dunn, Esq. - Disability Rights NC
David A. Kahne, Esq. - Law Office of David A. Kahne
David C. Fleurant, Esq. - Disability Law Center of Alaska
David Gates, Esq.
Diane Coleman, J.D. - Not Dead Yet
Edward L. Myers, Esq.
Ellen Hahn, Esq.
Eric A. Evans, Ph.D. - Disability Rights Nebraska
Frank J. Laski, Esq.
Gloria Prevost, Executive Director - Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc. (South Carolina)
Gretchen Knauff, Executive Director - Disability Rights Connecticut
Howard A. Rosenblum, Esq. - National Association of the Deaf
Jane A. Moore, J.D. - Disability Rights Maine
Jane Hudson, J.D. - Disability Rights Iowa
Jasmine E. Harris, Acting Professor of Law - UC Davis School of Law
Jo Anne Simon, Esq. - Jo Anne Simon, P.C.
Joseph Young, Esq. - Disability Rights New Jersey
Judith Abbott Gran, Esq. - Reisman Carolla Gran LLP
Julia M. Brown, Esq. - Disability Rights Maine
Kathleen M. Flaherty, Esq. - Connecticut Legal Rights Project, Inc.
Kathryn Carroll, Esq. - Center for Disability Rights
Kay Marilyn Kenton, J.D.
Kevin M. Cremin, Esq. - Mobilization for Justice
Kevin W. Williams, Esq. - Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition
Kim Moody, Executive Director - Disability Rights Maine
Kirk W. Lowry, J.D. - Connecticut Legal Rights Project
Kristin L. Aiello, Esq. - Disability Rights Maine
Laura J. Waterland, Esq. - Disabilities Law Program of Community Legal Aid Society
Lauren Wille, Esq. - Disability Rights Maine
Lee Awbrey, Esq.
Lourdes I. Rosa-Carrasquillo, Esq. - The Center for Independence of the Disabled-NY
Maisha Elonai, Esq. - Liberty Resources, Inc.
Maria Michelle Uzeta, Esq. - Law Office of Michelle Uzeta
Marjorie Rifkin, Esq. - Disability Rights DC
Mary Anne Harvey, Executive Director - Disability Law Colorado
Mary J. Goodwin-Oquendo, Esq. - Jo Anne Simon PC
Mary M. McKenzie, Esq. - Public Interest Law Center
Meghan Marsh, Esq. - Disability Rights Maryland
Michael Churchill, Esq. - Public Interest Law Center
Michael Gilberg, Esq.
Michael W. Thornton, Esq.
Nancy B. Alisberg, Legal Director - Disability Rights Connecticut
Nell Brimmer, Esq. - Disability Rights Maine
Patricia Barbosa, Esq. - Barbosa Group
Peri Jude Radecic, Esq. - Disability Rights Pennsylvania
Peter M. Rice, Esq., Legal Director - Disability Rights Maine
Richard LaVallo, Esq. - Disability Rights Texas
Ruby Moore, Esq. - The Georgia Advocacy Office
Sally R. Zanger, Attorney at Law - Connecticut Legal Rights Project
Samantha Crane, Esq. - Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Sarah W. Mitchell, J.D. - Disability Advocate/Consultant
Sean Pevsner, Esq. - Whitburn & Pevsner, PLLC
Staci K. Converse, Esq. - Disability Rights Maine
Stephanie Woodward, J.D. - Center for Disability Rights (NY)
Stephen Feldman, Esq.
Susan Given, Executive Director - Disability Rights of West Virginia
Susan Stefan, Esq.
Therese Yanan, Esq. - Native American Disability Law Center, Inc.
Thomas H. Earle, Esq. - Liberty Resources
Tom Masseau, Executive Director - Disability Rights Arkansas
Travis W. England, Esq. - National Center for Law and Economic Justice
Virginia Knowlton Marcus, Director of Legal Advocacy - Disability Rights California
The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
1233 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20525

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
233 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Date:  May 14, 2018

Re: Support of Disability Integration Act of 2017, S.910; H.R. 2472

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer, Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

The undersigned member organizations of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) are writing to reiterate our support of the Disability Integration Act (S. 910, H.R. 2472). This legislation, if passed, would ensure the rights of people with disabilities to live full and independent lives in their communities.

CCD is a coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of the approximately 57 million children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

The undersigned organizations endorse the Disability Integration Act’s goals of ensuring that millions of Americans with disabilities have access to services they need to live in the community and of removing the institutional bias in critical Federal programs. This bill builds on the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Supreme Court’s Olmstead decision, and asserts that people with disabilities have a right to live in their own homes and communities and to receive the services and supports they need to do so.

For too many years, thousands of people with disabilities have been isolated and segregated in institutional settings, where they lose the opportunity to be full participants in society. As the Supreme Court observed in Olmstead v. L.C., “confinement in an institution severely diminishes the everyday life activities of individuals, including family relations, social contacts, work.
options, economic independence, educational advancement, and cultural enrichment,” and furthermore, institutionalizing people who could live in community settings “perpetuates unwarranted assumptions that persons so isolated are incapable or unworthy of participating in community life.”

While we have made progress in recent years in expanding home and community-based services for individuals with disabilities, many thousands of people with disabilities remain in institutional settings when they could and should have the opportunity to live, work, and receive services in their own homes and communities. The Disability Integration Act would complement the ADA and accelerate the pace of people with disabilities leaving institutions, including by describing with specificity steps that must be taken by states and providers of insurance covering long-term services and supports to achieve community integration.

We urge Congress to pass the Disability Integration Act (S. 910; H.R. 2472) and affirm the right of people with disabilities to live independently and be full participants in their communities. Please contact Dara Baldwin, MPA, Senior Public Policy Analyst, National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) at dara.baldwin@ndrn.org or 202-408-9514 ext. 102 with any questions.

Sincerely,

The Advocacy Institute
Allies for Independence
American Association on Health and Disability
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Civil Liberties Union
American Foundation for the Blind
The Arc of the United States
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
Association of People Supporting Employment First
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Association of University Centers on Disabilities


2 Id.
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Autism Society of America
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Brain Injury Association of America
Center for Public Representation
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Epilepsy Foundation
Institute for Educational Leadership
Justice in Aging
Lutheran Services in America Disability Network
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Council on Aging
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Organization of Nurses with Disabilities
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Respite Coalition
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Parent to Parent USA
TASH
United Cerebral Palsy
United Spinal Association
September 22, 2017

National ADAPT
1640-A E. 2nd Street
Suite 100
Austin, TX 78702

Dear ADAPT Community:

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) supports the Disability Integration Act (S.910/HR.2472), bi-partisan, bi-cameral legislation that ensures full community integration for Disabled Americans.

More than 25 years after the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals with disabilities who need long term services and supports continue to face barriers to community integration. Americans with disabilities must not be denied the option to receive services and supports they need to live independently and as active members of their communities.

As a union representing hundreds of thousands of home care workers, we know first-hand that the availability of an adequate workforce is essential to ensuring that individuals with disabilities have the choice to receive services and supports in their homes and community. For that reason, we especially appreciate recognition that the failure to establish adequate payment rates and structures for the home and community based workforce, including home care workers, creates barriers to our shared goal of community integration.

SEIU supports the Disability Integration Act and urges Congress to move forward with passing this important civil rights legislation for Americans with Disabilities.

Sincerely,

Mary Kay Henry
International President

MKH:AS:ec