

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 (HR.555/S.117)**, introduced by **Representative Sensenbrenner (R-WI)** and **Senators Schumer (D-NY) and Gardner (R-CO)**, and supported by **Representative Ken Buck (R-CO)** 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:

- American Association on Health and Disability
- American Association of People with Disabilities
- Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities
- Brain Injury Association of America
- Lutheran Services in America Disability Network
- MS Society
- National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
- National Council on Aging
- National Disability Leadership Alliance
- National Downs Syndrome Congress
- National Organization of Nurses with Disabilities
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Parent to Parent USA
- TASH
- The Arc of the United States
- The Congress of Disabled Persons Against Exploitation
- United Spinal Association

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.

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

Cosponsor the Disability Integration Act

Sending Office: Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Sent By: Michael.Steger@mail.house.gov

Request for Cosponsor(s)

Dear Colleague,

I invite you to join me in supporting millions of people with disabilities across the country by becoming a cosponsor of the Disability Integration Act (S. 910/ H.R. 2472). This bipartisan, bicameral legislation – which I introduced in the House in May – secures in Federal law the Constitutional right to liberty for Americans with disabilities by ensuring that they have the choice to receive home and community based services and supports.

Currently, the lack of adequate home and community based services forces people with disabilities into costly and restrictive institutional settings, or to pay high out-of-pocket costs for in-home care. This prevents disabled people from exercising the liberty that non-disabled Americans take for granted. It also causes unnecessary financial and emotional distress for individuals with disabilities and their families, especially when disabled people are forced to rely on their family members for assistance because formal in-home supports and services are not available.

The Disability Integration Act ensures that any individual who is found eligible for institutional placement is also given the option to receive crucial services and supports at home or in the setting of their choosing. States and insurance providers will be required to cover home and community based services so people with disabilities can accomplish their activities of daily living - such as eating, bathing, medication management and housekeeping - outside of an institutional setting.

In addition to allowing disabled people to lead independent lives, these home and community based services will save taxpayer dollars when compared to the cost of institutional settings. Most importantly, these services will ensure that people with disabilities in the U.S. can exercise the liberty that is the birthright of all Americans.

I urge you to become a cosponsor of the Disability Integration Act. For more information or to become a cosponsor the Disability Integration Act, please contact Amy Bos at Amy.Bos@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress

Related Legislative Issues

Selected legislative information: HealthCare, Judiciary

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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 Latinxs 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

Nevada

Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living

New Hampshire

Granite State Independent Living
NH Pediatric Nursing Care Campaign
One Sky Community Services

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.
Kahrman 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

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Christine Griffin, Esq. - Disability Law Center
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David Gates, Esq.
Diane Coleman, J.D. - Not Dead Yet
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Ellen Hahn, Esq.
Eric A. Evans, Ph.D. - Disability Rights Nebraska
Frank J. Laski, Esq.
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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.

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Maria Michelle Uzeta, Esq. - Law Office of Michelle Uzeta
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Meghan Marsh, Esq. - Disability Rights Maryland
Michael Churchill, Esq. - Public Interest Law Center
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Michael W. Thornton, Esq.
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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 Masseur, 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



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

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,”¹ 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.”²

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

¹ 527 U.S. 581, 583 (1999).

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