September 25, 2019

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: National Sign-on Letter in support the Disability Integration Act of 2019 (H.R. 555)
urging that the bill be moved forward to a full House floor for a vote before the end of
the first session of the 116th Congress – 3,171 Sign Ons

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

The 3,171 undersigned people with disabilities, their family, friends and allies are writing
this letter in support of the Disability Integration Act of 2019 (DIA) H.R. 555, and we
urge you to move this legislation forward through regular rules of order (by having a
hearing, mark-up) for a full House floor vote before the end of the first session of the
116th Congress.

On the 90th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther King Jr., the Disability Integration
Act (H.R. 555/ S. 117) was introduced by Representative Jim Sensenbrenner in the
House with 40 original cosponsors and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) with
Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) and 22 other original cosponsors in the Senate. In a
statement for the DIA introduction ceremony Rep. Sensenbrenner said, “I am proud to
re-introduce this bill, because all Americans should share in the American Dream, and
that begins in the community in someone’s own home.”

Since its introduction, ADAPT and NCIL members worked long and hard to secure 234
bipartisan cosponsors on H.R. 555 (218 Democrats and 16 Republicans). Today, a
majority of the House of Representatives are cosponsoring this legislation as is a
majority of every committee with jurisdiction over the bill.

DIA is supposed to move through the House Energy and Commerce Committee, but
ADAPT, NCIL and others in the Disability Community have been told by Chairman Rep.
Frank Pallone (D-NJ) that this bill will not be allowed to move forward. (See ADAPT
press release June 19, 2019 – Pallone Obstructing DIA’s Movement:
https://adapt.org/pallone-obstructing-dias-movement/ )

In June, we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Supreme Court’s Olmstead decision.
This decision recognized the fundamental equality of those with disabilities and affirmed
that people with disabilities have the right to live in the most integrated setting, rather
than be forced into unwanted institutionalization. Unfortunately, the promise of
Olmstead has not been fulfilled and countless elderly and Disabled Americans remain segregated in institutions. The continuing existence of unfair and unnecessary institutionalization denies individuals with disabilities the opportunity to live and participate on an equal basis in the community and costs the United States billions of dollars in unnecessary spending related to perpetuating dependency and unnecessary confinement. It is, therefore, necessary to recognize in statute a robust and fully articulated right to community living.

Discussing the importance of the Disability Integration Act, Disability Rights attorney Steve Gold has said:

"This important civil rights bill picks up where Olmstead left off. It enshrines in Federal statute the right to live in the community, which Olmstead recognized. It gives people with disabilities and seniors the right to demand that states and insurers remove the obstacles, which stand in the way of their integration. It takes what disability advocates have learned in working for integration in the past eighteen years and gives disability advocates another and a more powerful tool to effect that integration."

(2017)

This legislation was written with purposeful Intersectionality, the critical race theory that encompasses the fact that people with disabilities are represented in all parts of life. Many people with disabilities are multi-marginalized because they are of all races and religions. They may be non-religious, LGBTQ+, incarcerated or formerly incarcerated, immigrants and refugees. It is in this solidarity that 3,171 people with disabilities, their family, friends and allies express our support the Disability Integration Act of 2019 (H.R. 555) and call on the House of Representatives to pass this imperative civil rights legislation today!

**FREE OUR PEOPLE!**

To find out more on the bill go to: [http://www.disabilityintegrationact.org/](http://www.disabilityintegrationact.org/)

To see the full list of organizations supporting DIA go to: [http://www.disabilityintegrationact.org/dia-supporter-list/](http://www.disabilityintegrationact.org/dia-supporter-list/)

Sincerely,

Aaron Baier  
Aiah Leggett  
Ahman Bryant  
Aaron Richardson  
Ada Hoover  
Aimee Rosato  
Abigail Smith  
Adam Burke  
Aiqin Wang  
Abigail Baez  
Adam Perry  
Aithan Peterson  
Abigail Bull  
Adam Porter  
Alan Holdsworth  
Abigail Perez  
Adam Prizio  
Alana Bogue  
Abigail Torres  
Adel Mahmoud  
Alana R Theriault  
Abubakar Usman  
Adrianna Frey  
Aldomond Whitfield
Clifford Stokes
Clifton Perez
Cody Claeys
Cody McDaniel
Cody Vieville
Coedy Wiggins
Colette Devack
Colin A Olenick
Colinda D. Thompson
Colleen Alexander
Colleen Flanagan
Colleen Lair
Colleen Lobel
Colleen Price
Colleen White
Connie Benjamin
Connie Fuller
Connie Kitchen
Connie Knapp
Connie Rekczis
Constance Corke
Cora Collins
Cora Stokes
Cora True-Frost
Coralys Torres Muniz
Corena Teeter
Corey Kitchen
Cori Spears
Corinne Vieville
Corlin Merritt
Cornelia Diffenbacher
Corrina Girardi
Corrine Burton
Courtney Medovich
Corwin Simpson
Courtney Blaisdell
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cc: Rep. Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader
    Rep. Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader
    Rep. James Clyburn, Majority Whip
    Rep. Steve Scalise, Minority Whip
    Rep. James Sensenbrenner, Bill Sponsor (H.R. 555)
    Rep. James Langevin, Dem Co-chair of Disability Caucus
    Rep. Don Young, Rep Co-Chair of Disability Caucus