

# The Disability Integration Act

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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”* (July 2013) 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 is a bicameral and bipartisan legislation that ensures 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. The DIA (S. 117/H.R. 555) in the 116<sup>th</sup>, introduced on January 15<sup>th</sup> in honor of the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the great civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., by **Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI)**, 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**

More information, including the full supporter list, is available at the DIA website: [www.DisabilityIntegrationAct.org](http://www.DisabilityIntegrationAct.org)

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