

August 11, 2026

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

As you likely know, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel recently [issued a memo](#) stating, essentially, that there is no integration mandate for people with disabilities under federal law.

The integration mandate was affirmed in the U.S. Supreme Court's *Olmstead v. Lois Curtis* case, and states across the country have taken important steps to make sure that disabled people can live in the community with supports and are not forced into institutions to receive care. The integration mandate is one of the most important rights that people with disabilities have. It has allowed countless disabled people to live, work, and participate fully in their communities instead of being confined to institutions.

We write to ask you to publicly affirm California's support for *Olmstead* and the integration mandate as set out in the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and to reject the incorrect and hateful reasoning contained in the OLC memo. You can do this by affirming the attached statement entitled [Our Commitment to Community Integration for People with Disabilities](#). Specific sign-on information to show your support can be conveyed by email to appropriate staff.

Californians and our elected officials share a decades-long understanding that serving disabled people in the community is right, just, desired, feasible, necessary, and required by law. We cannot go back to the unnecessary, unlawful, and inhumane institutionalization of people with disabilities.

Your support is important and greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

SEVENTY-EIGHT CALIFORNIA ORGANIZATIONS

Access Central Coast
Aging Services Collaborative of Santa Clara County
Alzheimer's Los Angeles
The Arc of California
Association of Regional Center Agencies

Letter to Governor Gavin Newsom
From 78 California Organizations
August 11, 2026
Page 2

CA Policy Center for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
CAADS

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform

California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A)

California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS

California Commission on Aging

California Community Living Network

California Council Of The Blind

California Disability Services Association

California Foundation for Independent Living Centers

California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance (CICA)

California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

CalPACE

Cardea Health

Center for Accessible Technology

Center for Access to QDROs

Center for Caregiver Advancement

Center for Racial & Disability Justice

Child Care Law Center

Choice in Aging

The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy, and Innovation

Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto

Dayle McIntosh Center for the Disabled

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center

Deaf Counseling Advocacy and Referral Agency (DCARA)

DeepConnections Somatic & Spiritual Practice

Designing Accessible Communities

Disability Rights California

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

Disability Voices United

Drug Policy Alliance

East Bay Innovations

Family Caregiver Alliance

FREED Center for Independent Living

Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network

HireAble

Housing Choices

Impact Fund

Integrated Community Collaborative

Integrated Resources Institute

Jewish Family Service Los Angeles

Letter to Governor Gavin Newsom
From 78 California Organizations
August 11, 2026
Page 3

Justice in Aging
The Kelsey
Legal Aid at Work
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Legal Assistance for Seniors
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
LTSS4All
Marin Center for Independent Living
Momentum Agencies
MSSP Site Association
National Health Law Program
National Housing Law Project
New Horizons: Serving Individuals with Special Needs
NorCal Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing
NorCal Spinal Cord Injury Foundation
PathPoint
Personal Assistance Services Council
PRC
Public Counsel
Redwood Family Care Network
Resources for Independence Central Valley
San Francisco Disability Cultural Center
San Francisco Senior and Disability Action
Senior Advocacy Network
Senior Coastsiders
Silicon Valley Independent Living Center
Stanford Medicine Alliance for Disability Inclusion and Equity
St. Barnabas Senior Services
The Wage Justice Center
Valon Consulting
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights
Youth Law Center

ADDITIONAL ADVOCATES

Ligia Andrade Zuniga
Connie Arnold
Emine A Aysoy
Nicole Diaz

Letter to Governor Gavin Newsom
From 78 California Organizations
August 11, 2026
Page 4

Bonnie Elliott
Marisol Ferrante
Ann Cupolo Freeman
Alexa Guerrero
Jennifer Kern, Esq.
Christopher Knauf, USC Gould School of Law
Eileen Koons
Bonnie Lewkowicz, BORP Adapted Sports & Recreation
Annette Orduno, Institute on Aging
Teresa Palmer M.D.
Megan Schirle
Richard Skaff
Beth Smith
Nancy Stevens, Rancho Mirage Resident Council
J Stipanuk
Judith Smith
Elena Tiffany
Valerie Vivona

Enclosed: Our Commitment to Community Integration for People with Disabilities

Our Commitment to Community Integration for People with Disabilities

The undersigned states are committed to serving people with disabilities in their own homes and communities. We have done so successfully for years, and our communities are better because of it.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provide that people with disabilities be served in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. Serving people with disabilities in the community, where they can lead full lives, has long had bipartisan support.

We are deeply concerned about the June 18, 2026 memo from the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel. We remain committed to community integration, which has long been required by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* and decades of subsequent law.