



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Down Syndrome Congress Releases Statement on the Recent Legal Opinion issued by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel

Washington, DC — The National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) is deeply concerned by a legal opinion issued on June 18 by the U.S. Department of Justice that challenges a long-standing interpretation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act—laws that help protect the right of people with disabilities to receive services and supports in their communities rather than institutions.

In the Olmstead decision, the Supreme Court held that unnecessary institutionalization of people with disabilities is a form of discrimination and affirmed the right of people with disabilities to receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. For people with Down syndrome and other disabilities, that means having the opportunity to live, learn, work, and participate in their communities rather than being unnecessarily segregated from family, friends, and neighbors.

While this DOJ opinion does not change the law or court decision, it will change how federal agencies interpret and apply the law. We are particularly concerned that this new interpretation could weaken support for home and community-based services (HCBS) and increase the risk of unnecessary institutionalization. NDSC remains committed to protecting the rights of people with Down syndrome and other disabilities to live full, inclusive lives in their communities.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/doj-disability-opinion-community-care/>
[#ADA](#) [#504](#) [#CommunityLiving](#) [#Olmstead](#) [#Disability](#) [#NDSC](#) [#downsyndrome](#)



About the National Down Syndrome Congress

The National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to an improved world for individuals with Down syndrome. Founded in 1973, the NDSC is a leading national resource of support and information for anyone touched by or seeking to learn about Down syndrome, from the moment of a prenatal diagnosis through adulthood. The purpose of the NDSC is to promote the interests of people with Down syndrome and their families through advocacy, public awareness, and information, empowering individuals and families from all demographic backgrounds and reshaping the way people understand and experience Down syndrome. The National Down Syndrome Congress is dedicated to an improved world for individuals with Down syndrome.

For more information on the NDSC, check out our website or follow us on social media.

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