



NDSC CONDEMNS THE WEAKENING OF COMMUNITY INTEGRATION PROTECTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) is deeply concerned by the final order in *Texas v. Kennedy*, which weakens important community integration protections from the 2024 regulations implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. These protections help ensure that people with disabilities can receive the services and supports they need in their homes and communities rather than being unnecessarily segregated in institutions. For generations, people with Down syndrome and other intellectual and developmental disabilities were routinely separated from their families and communities and placed in institutions, often for their entire lives. Our country has spent decades moving away from that shameful history and toward a system that recognizes the right of people with disabilities to live and participate fully in their communities.

The law has not changed. Section 504, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the Supreme Court's landmark *Olmstead v. L.C. (Lois Curtis and Elaine Wilson)* decision remain in effect, including protections against the unnecessary segregation of people with disabilities. But removing these regulatory protections weakens important federal safeguards at a time when Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) — the services that make community living possible for millions of people with disabilities — are already under significant pressure.

NDSC has spent more than 50 years advocating for the full inclusion of people with Down syndrome in every aspect of American life. We cannot go backward. NDSC will continue working alongside people with disabilities, families, and our advocacy partners to protect *Olmstead*, Section 504, and the ADA, strengthen HCBS, and defend the rights of people with Down syndrome and other disabilities to live, work, and thrive in their communities. Community living is a civil right, and NDSC will continue fighting to protect it.