



We have the legal right of way.

April 13, 2022

Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General
30 E. Broad St., 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215


Dear Attorney General Yost:

The undersigned organizations, groups, and individuals represent the interests of people with disabilities across Ohio. We write to you with serious concerns about the state of Florida's efforts to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to determine that the U.S. Department of Justice does not have the authority to enforce Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), which prohibits disability discrimination by state and local governments.

Florida will be asking the Attorneys General of other states to support its attack on this landmark federal civil rights law. **We strongly urge you not to support Florida's dangerous efforts to roll back the legal protections under Title II of the ADA.**

People with disabilities and their allies have fought hard for decades for these legal protections. The ADA has made enormous progress in ensuring people with disabilities have equal access in programs and services of states and local governments, including rights to effective communication for people who have vision, hearing, or cognitive impairments and rights to physical accessibility for people who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices. The U.S. Department of Justice's enforcement authority has been critical in upholding these rights under the Title II of the ADA.

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* found that Title II of the ADA requires states to administer service systems for people with disabilities in a manner that enables people with disabilities to live and work in integrated, community settings instead of in institutions and other segregated settings. The U.S. Department of Justice has taken legal action under the ADA in states across the country to reform service systems, which has led to more independence and inclusion and a higher quality of life for countless people across the country. In fact, the case in which Florida is seeking to weaken the ADA involves the unnecessary institutionalization of children with disabilities in residential facilities because of the lack of community-based services.



Disability Rights Ohio
200 Civic Center Dr., Suite 300
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4234

614-466-7264 or 800-282-9181

FAX 614-644-1888

disabilityrightsohio.org

**Ohio Disability Rights Law
and Policy Center, Inc.**

There is still much to be done to fulfill the promises of the ADA to “assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency” for people with disabilities.” We must move forward, not backward.

Respectfully,

/s/ Kevin Truitt

Kevin Truitt
Legal Advocacy Director
Disability Rights Ohio

Ohio Olmstead Task Force
The Ability Center of Greater Toledo
Coalition for Community Living - Ohio
Ohio TASH
Services for Independent Living
Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council
People First of Ohio
Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council
Breaking Silences Advocacy Committee
Breaking Silences Community Collective
Maria A. Matzik, consumer of HCBS waiver services
Disability Rights Texas
Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP)
ADA Watch/Coalition for Disability Rights and Justice
Not Dead Yet
Talk with Tenney Radio on Blog Talk Radio
Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio

Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Ohio

Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo

Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati

Jason Harris

Susan Koller, self-advocate

The Center for Independent Living Options

Ohio Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)

Tri-County Independent Living Center

The Arc of Ohio

Self Advocates Becoming Empowered

Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Neighbors in Action

Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio

University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Three Deuce Five Marine Foundation

Sandra K. Black, Ohio parent of an individual with disabilities

Stephanie Welter

Brenda Smith

Beth Croucher, parent of disabled child

James Harley

Dayton area special needs mothers

Ella Kutter, parent

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.