

## ***UOAA Supports the Passage of the Disability Integration Act of 2019***

### ***Background***

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 made assurances that people with disabilities be allowed to live independently, rather than being forced into costly and restrictive institutional settings or to pay high out-of-pocket costs for in-home care. Additionally, in 1999, the Supreme Court held in *Olmstead v. L.S.*, that the unjustified segregation of people with disabilities is unlawful discrimination. Despite the *Olmstead* ruling, few States have come into full compliance with *Olmstead* or the ADA, and most are not providing adequate accommodations such as Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) for people with disabilities to live independently.

### ***What is the Disability Integration Act (DIA)?***

The Disability Integration Act (DIA) is bipartisan legislation that ensures people with disabilities have a federally protected right to live and receive services in their own homes or in the setting of their choosing. 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) was introduced in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress by Senators Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), and creates a comprehensive solution, assuring the full integration of disabled people in the community by:

- ensuring that people with an ostomy and other conditions are able to exercise real choice in where they wish to receive attendant services, assistance with health-related tasks such as maintenance and use of a stable ostomy or other services that enable a person with a disability to live in the community such as in an assisted living facility and lead an independent life
- 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
- requiring states and insurance providers to cover home and community-based services so people with disabilities can accomplish their activities of daily living - such as eating, bathing, caring for an ostomy, medication management and housekeeping - outside of an institutional setting
- articulating 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
- requiring public entities to address the need for affordable, accessible, integrated housing that is independent of service delivery

### ***Why Congress Should Support the Disability Integration Act***

- It secures the Constitutional right to liberty for millions of disabled people and seniors who are in institutions and want to live in the community.
- It saves millions of Federal and State dollars compared with institutionalization.

### **REQUEST TO LEGISLATORS**

**Please Co-sponsor S. 117/H.R. 555 Disability Integration Act which creates the right of all people with disabilities to live in the community and supports the integration, equality, and civil rights of people with disabilities.**