



Reinterpretation of Olmstead



SCRIPT

**CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS
TODAY**

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In 1999, the Supreme Court held that disabled folx have the right to live in the community, with the services and supports they need, rather than be placed in institutions.

That decision is being challenged.

In the lawsuit, [Texas vs. Kennedy](#), 6 states (as of June 25, 2026) claim Olmstead does not require states to be “coerced” into spending their Medicaid dollars for community integration.

The **June 9, 2026 [House Appropriations Committee Report](#)** (*starts on page 215*) for the departments of Labor and Health and Human Services states:

“The Committee notes that the Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* (1999) held that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not require removing individuals from institutional settings when they are unable to handle or benefit from a community-based setting and that the ADA does not require the imposition of community-based treatment on individuals who do not desire it.”

On June 18, 2026, the Department of Justice released a [memo](#) that states:

“In *Olmstead*, the Supreme Court did not hold that section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or Title II of the ADA require states to treat mentally disabled patients in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.”

We cannot go back. Our children deserve to grow up with the same rights and protections they were born with.

Use this script to call your legislators and ask they oppose the reinterpretation of *Olmstead*.

THE SCRIPT

My name is [insert your name], and I live in [insert your city, state, and zip code].

I am calling today to express my concern about language in the FY2027 Labor-HHS House Appropriations Committee report.

The committee report says, "...the Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead* held that the ADA does **not** require removing individuals from institutional settings when they are unable to *handle* or *benefit* from a community-based setting and that the ADA does **not** require the imposition of community-based treatment on individuals who do not desire it."

The House Appropriations Bill *denies* Protection and Advocacy organizations from pursuing legal action to close state-run institutions for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In conjunction with the Medicaid cuts, the Texas vs. Kennedy lawsuit, and the DOJ memo released on June 18th, it appears this is part of a coordinated effort to weaken protections for the disability community.

As a parent to a disabled child, I am concerned that the reinterpretation of *Olmstead* will force my child into an institutional setting, rather than supporting them to live in the community.

I ask that you oppose this language in the FY2027 Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill and committee report, *and* support the right of Protection and Advocacy organizations to continue their work to implement the U.S. Supreme Court's 1999 decision in *Olmstead*, **which requires states to eliminate unnecessary segregation of people with disabilities, and to ensure that they receive services in the most integrated setting possible.**

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