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Subject: Request to Rescind Memorandum on the ADA's Integration Mandate

To Whom It May Concern:

As Executive Director of MOCEANS Center for Independent Living, I respectfully urge the U.S. Department of Justice to rescind its memorandum, Application of the Rehabilitation Act and Americans with Disabilities Act to State Institutionalization of Patients with Severe Mental Illness or Disabilities, and reaffirm its longstanding commitment to the integration mandate established by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*

Since 1999, *Olmstead* has helped ensure that people with disabilities can live in their own homes, work, attend school, raise families, and participate in community life rather than being unnecessarily institutionalized. This landmark decision has guided federal, state, and local efforts to expand independent living, affirming that community integration is a fundamental civil right.

The Department's memorandum departs from decades of legal interpretation and federal enforcement by stating that the ADA does not guarantee services in integrated community settings. While the memorandum does not overturn *Olmstead* or change existing law, it creates uncertainty about the Department's commitment to enforcing the ADA's integration mandate. That uncertainty threatens access to the community-based services and supports that make independent living possible.

As a Center for Independent Living, we witness every day how personal assistance services, accessible housing, transportation, employment supports, and Home and Community-Based Services enable people with disabilities to live with dignity, independence, and choice.

I respectfully ask the Department to withdraw this memorandum, reaffirm the principles established in *Olmstead*, and continue to vigorously enforce the ADA's integration mandate so that people with disabilities can continue to live, work, and participate fully in the communities they choose.

Respectfully,
Judyth Brown
Executive Director
Moceans Center for Independent Living