



The Value of VOR Membership!

VOR is a national, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that is unique in its fundamental mission to advocate in support of a full continuum of care options for people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities, and their families.

VOR is 100% privately funded and receives more than 95% of its financial support from families of individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

Individuals investing in VOR through membership dues and donations enjoy the intangible benefit of supporting the **only** national organization advocating for the right of individuals and their families to choose from among an array of residential options, including own home, in-home, community-based and facility-based care. We recognize and champion the right of individuals and their families to be the primary decisionmakers regarding care and policy decisions.

Thousands of individuals, families, professionals and organizations support VOR through annual membership dues and additional contributions. The membership's ongoing financial and advocacy support speaks directly to the grassroots' confidence in VOR's ability to succeed in its Mission on behalf of people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

Supporting VOR is a good investment!

Thank you for your membership and financial support!

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To join VOR, please enclose dues payment: Individual \$40 Family Organization \$200 Professional Assn. \$250

An extra donation is enclosed. \$1000__ \$500__ \$100__ \$25__ Other _____

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Street Address _____ Work Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____ Fax _____

Facility/Organization Affiliation _____ Title: _____

Please Charge my: MC Visa Discover Card number: _____

Expiration Date : _____ Three Digit Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

Location your loved one calls home: _____ State: _____

Thank you for supporting VOR. Gifts to VOR are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law, as no goods or services are provided in consideration of a gift. A receipt for your gift will be sent to you.



VOR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

TANGIBLE BENEFITS TO MEMBERS -

- ✓ **VOR's Weekly E-Mail Update**, that provides members with "real time" national news.
- ✓ VOR's print newsletter, **The Voice**, that includes legislative, legal and state news, along with VOR organizational updates, published three times per year.
- ✓ Regular **Action Alerts** with background information, template messages and contact information enabling members to respond to legislative and other policy proposals impacting people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.
- ✓ An annual **VOR's Conference** and related events which feature prominent speakers and timely topics in Washington, D.C.
- ✓ **Individual advocacy assistance** via access to VOR's Board Members, State Coordinators, staff and key leaders.
- ✓ A vibrant **Legislative Advocacy** program, including an annual **Washington Initiative** and a year-round Washington Representative who attends legislative meetings, hearings, and conferences on VOR's behalf, ensuring a regular presence in our nation's capitol.
- ✓ A vibrant **Legal Advocacy** program which includes legal advocacy and, when available, pro bono legal representation for nationally significant litigation. VOR has had a presence and impact in cases in Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey; Washington State, California, Massachusetts, and Virginia.
- ✓ An **informative website** (www.vor.net) which some members regard as a "one-stop advocacy shop."
- ✓ Access to VOR speakers and grassroots training opportunities.
- ✓ The right to select VOR's Board of Directors through an annual vote.

THE INTANGIBLE BENEFITS TO MEMBERS -

- ✓ **Only VOR speaks up for families and gets involved** when results of legal precedents in other states will affect your loved ones.
- ✓ **Only VOR speaks up for individuals** to make sure that the quality of care in all settings meets the individual needs of each resident.
- ✓ **Only VOR speaks up for families and individuals** to choose from a spectrum of residential choices, including large or small, state or private, or home.
- ✓ **Only VOR speaks up for families** on federal issues that affect funding and quality of life for people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities, like *Olmstead*, DD Act reform and Medicaid.



VOR MILESTONES

More than quarter century of effective advocacy

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY MILESTONES

- ✓ **1993:** VOR secures individual and family “primary decision-maker” language in the federal DD Act.
- ✓ **1997:** VOR forms its first Legislative Committee.
- ✓ **1998:** VOR secures the introduction of federal legislation seeking protections for people with mental retardation in Medicaid managed care. VOR receives commendation by the bill’s sponsor in the Congressional Record.
- ✓ **2000:** VOR secures stronger “primary decision-making” language in the DD Act.
- ✓ **2006:** VOR hires its first Washington Representative, Larry Innis.
- ✓ **2006:** VOR presents oral and written testimony in support of the facility option at U.S. Medicaid Commission hearings.
- ✓ **2007- 2010:** VOR secures the introduction of federal legislation to requiring federally funded lawyers to notify individuals and their guardians prior to filing class action lawsuits, and offer an opportunity to opt out of the lawsuit.
- ✓ **2010:** VOR presents testimony at HHS Listening Sessions.

LEGAL ADVOCACY MILESTONES

- ✓ **1993:** VOR is Amicus Curiae in *Heller v. Doe* (U.S. Supreme Court), successfully arguing in support of family participation in placement decisions.
- ✓ **1999:** VOR, with 141 organizations, is Amicus Curiae in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Olmstead v. L.C.* The Supreme Court cites VOR's brief.
- ✓ **2000:** VOR, with 93 organizations, is Amicus Curiae in *Garrett v. University of Alabama*, defending the constitutionality of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- ✓ **2005:** VOR establishes the Burke Legal Support Fund and recruits Martha Dwyer to serve as VOR's volunteer Pro Bono Coordinating Counsel.
- ✓ **2006- 2010:** VOR secures representation for families, and provides legal advocacy support, in nationally significant cases in Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey; and participates as *Amicus Curiae* in cases in Washington State, California, Massachusetts, and Virginia.
- ✓ **2010:** VOR's President serves as an expert witness in a federal lawsuit in support of residential choice.

MEDIA and EDUCATION ADVOCACY MILESTONES

- ✓ **Since 1983 - current:** Editorials, interviews and quotes in newspapers across the country.
- ✓ **2003:** VOR's peer-reviewed cost comparison study is published in a respected professional journal. An update was published in 2009.
- ✓ **2004:** VOR's articles regarding measuring quality care are published.
- ✓ **2005:** VOR publishes the Grassroots Organization and Advocacy Toolkit and hosts its first member training. Since then there have been regular Toolkit updates and additional training for families and professionals.

Only VOR speaks up for individuals for the needed specialized care by dentists, dieticians, therapists, and loving employees who care about people like your loved ones.

Only VOR speaks up for the future of your loved ones with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.