



VOR MILESTONES

30 years 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 intellectual disabilities 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.
- ✓ **2010 - 2011:** VOR presents testimony at HHS Listening Sessions, provides testimony at Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) Listening Sessions and online, and submits federal comments on defining “community” and mixed population community waivers.
- ✓ **2007- 2011:** 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 opt out of the lawsuit.
- ✓ **2012:** In separate federal comments, VOR points to human abuse and calls for independent oversight and audit of AIDD and the three DD Act programs.
- ✓ **2012:** VOR submits written testimony objecting to additional funding for the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division and written testimony for a Senate Olmstead hearing calling for individual choice, as Olmstead requires.
- ✓ **2013:** VOR testifies before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and Related Agencies seeking a prohibition of wasteful HHS v. HHS spending.
- ✓ **2013:** VOR hosts its first legislative Webinar for members and others: “How Congress Works: The Basics”

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.
- ✓ **2010:** VOR’s President serves as an expert witness in a federal lawsuit in support of residential choice.
- ✓ **2012:** After long legal battle, VOR helps secure an ICF/ID placement for Virginia Massa. VOR connected Virginia’s stepmother and guardian, Mary Reese, with skilled counsel who secured placement for Virginia who had been suffering in a group home, and whose case resulted in important precedent for other families.
- ✓ **2012:** VOR participated as *Amicus Curiae* in support of family interveners in two federal appeals, which resulted in securing family intervention and the overturning of a bad settlement agreement.

- ✓ **2006- 2013:** VOR secures representation for families, and provides legal advocacy support, in nationally significant cases in Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and New Jersey; and participates as *Amicus Curiae* in cases in Washington State, California, Massachusetts, and Virginia.

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 - current:** VOR publishes the Grassroots Organization and Advocacy Toolkit (updated and expanded in 2013) and hosts its first member training. Since then there have been regular Toolkit updates and additional training for families and professionals.
- ✓ **Ongoing:** VOR speaks and exhibits at family and professional association conference. Additionally, VOR’s Annual Conference offers it membership and others nationally-significant speakers who provide timely presentations aimed at empowering family advocates in support of residential choice.
- ✓ **2013:** VOR hosts its first Webinar for State Coordinators and unveiled its updated and expanded “VOR Advocacy Manual and Toolkit,” an extensive advocacy resource for advocates. State Coordinator Webinars will be offered quarterly. Upcoming Webinars will feature social media “how-tos” and lessons learned by State Coordinators, who will host these Webinars.
- ✓ **2013:** *EP Magazine* will feature VOR several editions, including Annual Conference information and article submissions. The May 2013 issue will feature VOR’s “Quality in the Community” initiative.
- ✓ **2011 - 2013:** VOR’s Board supports and pursues a public relations initiative and in August 2011, forms a Marketing and Communications Committee. In 2012, this Committee makes leveraging the potential of social media, reaching the press, and local awareness opportunities as VOR priorities.

Only VOR speaks up for a full spectrum of quality residential options from own home, small settings, and licensed Medicaid facilities for all people with intellectual 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 _____

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