

## **HARMFUL EFFECTS OF DISABILITY INTEGRATION ACT S. 910 / H.R. 2472**

VOR urges legislators to consider the harmful effects of the Disability Integration Act. This legislation would override the decision-making authority of individuals with disabilities and their families and guardians should their choice be to receive care in an Intermediate Care Facility (a so-called “institution”). This federal program, which is jointly funded with the states, provides comprehensive care with extensive oversight for society’s most intellectually disabled individuals. Additionally, the legislation would put tremendous pressure on the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) program, another federal-state program, which does not provide a similar level of care for individuals with complex needs.

The Disability Integration Act would:

### **Require comprehensive, enforceable discharge planning for individuals with all types of intellectual disabilities from all institutional settings**

- Potentially affects nearly every person receiving institutional care, given the broad definition of “disabilities”
- Disregards the choices of individuals
- *Places the health and safety of individuals discharged at great risk*
- Could result in significantly increased wait times for individuals on HCBS wait lists, as discharged individuals have priority

### **Prohibit cost caps for individuals in community settings**

- Removes states’ ability to design their service systems and control their budgets
- Likely result in unsustainable expenditures

### **Increase the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage by 5 percentage points for amounts expended by states for medical assistance in HCBS settings**

- Significantly increases federal Medicaid and state expenditures placing tremendous pressure on the Medicaid program
- No current cost analysis available to gauge sustainability

**For all these reasons, we urge legislators to proceed with caution**