

P R Center for Public Representation

A Message to Our Community

Dear friends,

At CPR, we have been following with alarm the rapid and extreme actions the Trump administration has taken to unravel hard-fought civil and human rights and violate the rule of law. We write to assure you that CPR is committed to advancing the rights of all people with disabilities, especially those most marginalized. We will use our skills and position to oppose the administration's efforts.

CPR's north star is promoting and advocating for equality, inclusion, accessibility and choice for people with disabilities. We recognize the intersectionality of our community and are unequivocally in solidarity with our BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, immigrant, and other allies. Dismantling of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility programs harms everyone. We oppose Executive Orders, policies, and laws that attempt to undercut these principles, including by illegally withholding federal funds, destabilizing critical government functions, and dismantling agencies that protect the rights of all individuals with disabilities.

In our role as lawyers, we have a special obligation to address erosion of the rule of law. As we have for almost 50 years, CPR is advancing co-led efforts to:

- Defend the rights of people with disabilities to agency, inclusion and autonomy;
- Use legal strategies to protect rights articulated in laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Medicaid Act, and the Voting Rights Act; and
- Build unified campaigns with our allies to counter these attacks on our community.

More information is coming in our newsletter later this month. For up-to-date developments, see the news stories on our website, <u>www.centerforpublicrep.org</u>.

We need your help. Each of us has a role to play in protecting our rights, our services, and our democracy. Our efforts will be bolstered by yours. We encourage you to speak up! Check out this resource to help you:

- 1. Stay informed
- 2. Contact your legislators
- 3. Tell your story

And, please support our work by **Donating** to CPR.

With Gratitude,

Cathy Costanzo

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