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Achieve with us.

Brian Cusack
President

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Chief Executive Officer

*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell
1 Ashburton Place, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

March 26, 2026

Dear Attorney General Campbell:

Thank you for your work on the many critical issues before you. We write to you today as the **IDD/Autism Alliance**. Led by The Arc of Massachusetts, this coalition brings together the leading advocacy organizations for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism in Massachusetts. The undersigned organizations write to you to share concerns about a lawsuit challenging crucial civil rights laws for people with disabilities.

As you know, in January of 2026, Texas and eight other states—Alaska, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, and South Dakota—sued the federal government, challenging Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. A critical provision of a long-standing civil rights law, Section 504 ensures that people with disabilities can receive services in the community, rather than in institutions. This law was upheld in the 1999 Supreme Court *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision and has enabled millions of people across the Commonwealth and the nation to live at home and in their communities.

At its core, this lawsuit challenges the integration mandate, which was strengthened in 2024, ensuring that individuals with disabilities receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate. If this lawsuit was to succeed, it would become harder for people with disabilities to receive services in their own communities, even here in Massachusetts.

[Research](#) consistently shows better outcomes for people living in community settings. Individuals report that they are happier, healthier, more independent, and more involved in their communities. This lawsuit threatens that reality. In an ongoing survey conducted by The Arc, family members report fear that their loved ones could end up in inappropriate settings if these civil rights protections are overturned. One family member shared: “[My daughter] would likely be placed in an institution instead of within a loving community among people who care about her.”

We appreciate your office's strong commitment to ensuring equity for people with disabilities in all aspects of society and urge you to continue this work through opposing any efforts in Massachusetts to similarly challenge crucial federal laws. Our organizations represent people across the Commonwealth with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are active members of our communities. We stand ready to work with you to uphold the civil rights of people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Maura Sullivan
CEO, **The Arc of Massachusetts**

Barbara L'Italien
Executive Director and CEO, **Disability Law Center, Inc.**

Anna Krieger
Executive Director, **Massachusetts Advocates for Children**

Harry Weissman
Executive Director, **Disability Policy Consortium**

Maureen Gallagher
Executive Director, **Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress**

Brenda Dater
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Katie Terino
Executive Committee Chair, **Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts (AFAM)**

Cynthia Laine
Founder, **Black Autism Coalition**

Ashley Quick
Board President, **Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong**

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Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental & related Disabilities (**LEND**) Program at **Boston Children's Hospital**

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