

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Disability Rights Advocates to Rally at Colorado State Capitol for D-RAD 2025 Event Highlights Critical Disability Legislation, Including HB 1017

[Denver, CO | March 5, 2025] Advocates, policymakers, and community leaders will gather this **Thursday, March, 6th**, at the Colorado State Capitol for **Disability Rights Advocacy Day (D-RAD 2025)**—an annual event dedicated to advancing disability rights. The event, running from **8 AM-12:15 PM**, will highlight several policy initiatives, including House Bill 1017, a bipartisan initiative to protect individuals with disabilities from unnecessary institutionalization.

Nancy Jensen, a disability rights advocate and author of “The Girl Who Cried Wolf: A Memoir,” is a particularly compelling voice on this issue. Having experienced unjust institutionalization firsthand, Jensen has testified before Congress about her fight for independence. She is available for interviews to share her story and discuss why **HB251017** is critical to ensuring that individuals with disabilities have the right to live independently in their communities.

“This bill is about ensuring that individuals with disabilities can live freely with dignity, rather than being forced into institutions,” said Nancy Jensen. “As someone who had to fight for my own freedom, I know firsthand why this protection is so critical.”

HB25-1017 builds on the landmark *Olmstead v. L.C.* Supreme Court ruling by strengthening protections for people with disabilities. The bill requires public entities to administer services in the most integrated, appropriate setting and directs the state to develop a comprehensive community integration plan. The bill passed unanimously out of its first committee on February 17. Pending budget approval it moves to the House Appropriations Committee next.

Media Availability

- **Journalists are invited to attend D-RAD 2025** to speak with advocates and policymakers about HB 1017 and other key disability rights issues.
- **Nancy Jensen is available for interviews via Zoom** to discuss her personal experience with institutionalization and why she believes HB 1017 is a necessary safeguard for Coloradans with disabilities. For interviews with Nancy, please contact **Felix Ortiz** at **720-202-9871** or FOrtiz@DisabilityLawCO.org.
- **Legislators will hold a press conference at 11:45 AM, where Rep. Chad Clifford may briefly address HB 1017.** For day of event media contact, please reach out to **Elizabeth Moran** at **720-660-9794** or emoran@thearcofco.org.

Event Details

Location: Colorado State Capitol

Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025

Time: 8 AM – 12:15 PM

About Disability Rights Advocacy Day: Disability Rights Advocacy Day is an annual event dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities to actively participate in the legislative process. By facilitating direct engagement with lawmakers, D-RAD strives to promote policies that uphold the rights and dignity of people with disabilities. For more information, visit:

www.disabilityrightsadvocacyday.org

About Disability Law Colorado: Disability Law Colorado is a nonprofit civil rights organization, authorized by federal law to combat discrimination, abuse, and neglect. We aim to make Colorado the best place in America to live and work with a disability. For more information, visit www.disabilitylawco.org.