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## Disability Justice Joins National Coalition Opposing Changes to Disability and Civil Rights Enforcement

**DENVER, CO** — Disability Justice has joined a coalition of disability rights, civil rights, and education organizations opposing the Administration's proposal to transfer key disability and civil rights functions from the U.S. Department of Education to other federal agencies. The proposed changes would move the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to the Department of Justice.

Disability Justice and its coalition partners argue that the transfers would weaken long-standing protections for students with disabilities and disrupt the coordination between education, vocational rehabilitation, and civil rights enforcement that Congress intentionally established through federal law.

"Students with disabilities deserve strong educational opportunities, meaningful civil rights protections, and a federal government that remains fully committed to both," said **Andrew Romanoff, executive director of Disability Justice**. "These proposed changes risk creating unnecessary barriers for students and families while undermining systems that have helped advance disability rights for decades."

Congress charged the Department of Education with implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), enforcing Section 504 protections, overseeing vocational rehabilitation programs, and protecting students from discrimination. Disability Justice believes moving those responsibilities to other agencies would create confusion, reduce accountability, and make it harder for students and families to access support.

"Families already face significant challenges navigating special education and disability rights systems," said **Emily Harvey, co-legal director at Disability Justice**. "Separating education oversight from disability and civil rights enforcement could delay resolutions, weaken specialized expertise, and make it more difficult for students to secure the services and protections they are entitled to under the law."

For more information or to schedule an interview, contact Felix Ortiz at 720-202-9871 or [fortiz@disabilityjustice.co](mailto:fortiz@disabilityjustice.co).

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***DISABILITY JUSTICE** is a nonprofit civil rights organization. We serve Coloradans with physical disabilities, intellectual and developmental disabilities, serious mental illness, and traumatic brain injuries. We aim to make Colorado the best place in America for people with disabilities to live, work, and thrive. Visit [disabilityjustice.co](http://disabilityjustice.co) to learn more.*