

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Autism Society of Pittsburgh.

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Tuesday, October 4, 2016

*Every cent raised is spent in our region
to help improve the lives of those among us
with autism and their families.*

#AUT2KNOW

DOJ and ACL ignore full meaning of Olmstead decision and Americans with Disabilities Act

[From VOR.NET:]

Recently, the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) issued press releases celebrating the 17th Anniversary of the *Olmstead* decision. VOR shares their view that there is much to celebrate in opening doors to community living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who are able and wish to take advantage of such opportunities. Unfortunately, their ideological preoccupation with one key part of *Olmstead*, community integration, at the expense of the other key part, choice, has reduced options for all people with I/DD. This cramped and, VOR would submit, inaccurate application of the plain language of *Olmstead* has done significant harm to many of our most disabled citizens.

By insisting that all people with I/DD live in the community, the DOJ and ACL are treating people with I/DD as a monolithic group, not as the individuals they are. DOJ and ACL are substituting the wishes of the government for that of the person with I/DD or, where relevant, the legal guardian. While their policies have opened doors for the less severely disabled, they have closed important doors for the more severely disabled. Many of these individuals have lifelong needs that require a very high level of care, the kind often found only in public and private Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFs/IID).

DOJ and ACL are pursuing this agenda in the name of the ADA and *Olmstead*, *but that is not what the ADA and Olmstead call for*. Both the statute and the Supreme Court case embody the best values of American society – nondiscrimination and choice. All of our civil rights laws contain both elements. Civil rights laws do not tell people where they must live or work. They guarantee individuals are not denied opportunities based on a particular factor, and they expand choices for individuals who have suffered discrimination. In sharp contrast, DOJ and ACL are using federal dollars to bring lawsuits and promote policies that needlessly and dangerously eliminate important options – ICFs/IID, sheltered workshops and facility-based day programs – that many of our most disabled individuals rely on and prefer over small community residences.

Read more...

<http://vor.net/news-and-events/press-releases/item/celebrating-the-17th-anniversary-of-olmstead>

...AUT2KNOW

NEWS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

Timely news on events and issues affecting those living with autism in the Greater Pittsburgh area and Pennsylvania.

New for October:

- [Guardianship Laws Under Attack](#)
- [Parents File Class-Action Lawsuit](#)
- [Urge Your U.S. Congressman and Senator to Support This ABL Act Strengtheners](#)
- [Department of Human Services Launches Improved CHIP Website](#)
- [States Look To Help Aging Parents of Those With Disabilities](#)
- [CMS Restrictions Having Deleterious Effect on Those with Autism](#)
- [Apartments Offer Inclusive Option for Adults on the Autism Spectrum](#)
- [CMS "Final Rule" Restrictions Affecting More than Those on the Autism Spectrum](#)
- [This Car Wash Has 35 Employees Who Have Autism...](#)

...and more!



EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

We offer a range of services, including workshops and support groups, training and educational programs, fundraising events, and community awareness building activities. We stay up-to-date on relevant happenings throughout our local autism community.

[Click here to view our calendar.](#)



AUTISM RESOURCES

We know that those with autism can present parents, families and providers with many challenges and a solid support system is essential. Be sure to check our website for a comprehensive listing of resources involving education, family support services, vocational training, nutrition and legal.

[Click here to download our complete resource list](#)



WAYS TO HELP

Our programs and services would not exist without the help of the caring individuals, businesses, and volunteers that support us. Contributions of any size are our lifeblood - vital to our existence and effectiveness - providing the means for us to help children with autism, their families, and professionals who work with them.

Donate

Please consider visiting [our donations page](#) today to make a contribution through PayPal or learn about other ways to donate.

Volunteer

From time to time we need caring volunteers to help with our programs and fundraising events. If interested, please complete [our contact form](#) and we will be in touch when a volunteer opportunity arises that meets your interests and availability.





Give us a call today!
412-856-7223

Visit www.autismsocietypgh.org or call us for more information and resources.

