



Disability Rights WASHINGTON

Washington's protection and advocacy system

The Honorable Governor Bob Ferguson
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-002

September 14, 2026

Dear Governor Ferguson,

Thank you for joining the bipartisan, [multi-state governors' letter](#) supporting continued federal commitment to *Olmstead* protections and community integration. We recognize and appreciate your public commitment to ensuring people with disabilities can live and receive services in their communities, rather than face unnecessary segregation in institutional setting. Washington has long been a leader on disability rights, and your decision to unite with 17 other governors in defense of these protections reaffirms that leadership at a moment when it matters the most.

As the federally designated Protection and Advocacy system for Washington state, Disability Rights Washington (DRW) works to advance and protect the human and legal rights of people with disabilities statewide. We [share your commitment](#) to the core principles of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and *Olmstead v. L.C.*: community integration, self-determination, meaningful choice, and the right to receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to a person's needs. **These principles are not abstract to us—they define the daily work we do with and on behalf of the disability community.**

We offer DRW as a resource to your office, policy staff, and state agencies as you navigate the implications of the federal government's retreat from its longstanding *Olmstead* guidance. Our staff has extensive experience advocating for community-based services to make community integration possible. We maintain strong partnerships across Washington's disability communities to elevate firsthand perspectives on the importance of a right to community living. We welcome the opportunity to coordinate a chance for you and your staff to hear directly from people with disabilities and their families about what community integration means in practice, and what is at stake if these protections erode.

DRW, with advocacy partners, is currently working with Representative Darya Farivar and other policymakers to explore legislative options for strengthening Washington's own commitment to community integration. We encourage your continued leadership and collaboration as this effort moves forward.

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DRW is a member of the Disability Rights Network.

Thank you again, Governor Ferguson, for your leadership on this critical issue. DRW is eager to partner with your administration to protect and advance the promise of *Olmstead* in our state. **We hope to schedule a meeting or briefing with you or your staff in the near future.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wally Tablit". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Wally Tablit

Executive Director, Disability Rights Washington

CC:

David Frockt, Deputy Policy Director

Grace Huang, Senior Policy Advisor

Caitlin Safford, Senior Policy Advisor

Debbie Driver, Legislative Director

Washington State Representative Darya Farivar