



Center for Public
Representation

Newsletter February 2026

Dear Friends,

Last month, one of the named plaintiffs in our cross-disability class action, [Marsters v. Healey](#), marked six months in his own home after spending more than four years in a nursing facility. His transition to community living is more than a personal milestone — it is a powerful reminder of why sustained advocacy and strategic litigation matter.

That impact extends beyond any single case. CPR has continued pushing back against efforts to weaken Section 504 and its critical integration mandate, while speaking out against immigration enforcement tactics that harm people with disabilities and communities of color. At the same time, we are advancing Supported Decision-Making nationwide, helping secure ABA-adopted reforms that formally recognize SDM as an accommodation and strengthen the attorney-client relationship. We have also worked alongside partners to oppose voter suppression bills that would disproportionately affect voters with disabilities.

At a time when disability rights face mounting challenges, these victories demonstrate what is possible when advocacy, partnership, and persistence come together. We remain committed to ensuring that people with disabilities can live, participate, and belong fully in their communities.

With gratitude,

Cathy Costanzo, Executive Director

CPR Stands Ready to Defend Discrimination Regulation from Attack

In January, nine states, led by Texas, filed a new [complaint](#) in *Texas v. Kennedy*, which seeks to overturn HHS' [Section 504 rule](#), and specifically its

integration mandate provisions. That section requires federally funded programs to offer services in the most integrated setting, as required by the Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* CPR and its Rapid Response Team partners issued an [alert](#) explaining the new case, will participate in a community briefing led by DREDF in the next few weeks, and is organizing national disability organizations to consider options for defending against this attack and preserving this core disability protection.

CPR Condemns Actions Targeting People of Color and Harming People with Disabilities, Calls for Congress to Oppose DHS Budget

On January 27, 2026, CPR issued a [statement](#) condemning anti-immigrant actions that harm people with disabilities and others due to violent enforcement tactics, inaccessible and unsafe conditions in detention centers, and the loss of needed support when caregivers are detained. Echoing these concerns, on February 2, 2026, 23 members of Congress [wrote](#) to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), reminding DHS of its responsibilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, including the obligation to make reasonable accommodations to avoid discrimination. CPR continues to monitor these developments.

ABA Adopts Groundbreaking Amendments to Model Rule 1.14

The ABA has adopted groundbreaking [amendments](#) to the Model Rule of Professional Conduct 1.14 for attorneys representing Clients with Diminished Capacity (now "Clients with Decision-Making Limitations"). Among other critical reforms, the amendments recognize Supported Decision-Making as an accommodation that can enhance a client's decision-making ability and clarify that an attorney can ethically represent a client subject to guardianship in restoring their rights. CPR Attorney Megan Rusciano served on the Working Group tasked with developing and proposing these amendments. You can learn more about the amendments and CPR's work [here](#).

CPR Opposes Voter Suppression Bills

CPR is working with allies to oppose three voter suppression bills currently being considered in Congress-- H.R. 7296 (S. 1383), the "SAVE America Act," H.R. 7300, the "Make Elections Great Again Act," and H.R.22, the original "SAVE Act." CPR participates on the National Coalition on Accessible Voting (NCAV) which submitted a [letter](#) highlighting the negative impacts of these bills on voters with disabilities. If passed, these bills would: limit vote-by-mail, restrict who can assist voters with disabilities, and require hard-to-get documents, such as passports or birth certificates, to register to vote. CPR also signed on to a [letter](#) submitted by The Leadership Conference.

CPR's *Marsters* Case, and Richard's Story, Highlighted on NPR

Last week, Boston's local NPR station broadcast a [story](#) about the transformative impact of CPR's nursing facility lawsuit, *Marsters v. Healey*, for people with disabilities in Massachusetts. It featured the compelling journey of Richard, one of the lead plaintiffs in the case, in transitioning from a poorly staffed nursing facility in Worcester to a new home in the community.

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