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Center for Public  
Representation

Newsletter January 2026

*Dear Friends,*

*As federal threats to the rights of people with disabilities continue, CPR remains vigilant and prepared to oppose them. We are steadfast in our commitment to protect and advance the rights of people in the disability community so they can live, learn, and thrive as full participants in society.*

*In recent months, CPR has joined disability advocacy partners in challenging Texas' voter suppression law, opposing the Department of Homeland Security's proposed "public charge" rule, and condemning the anti-trans actions of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the administration. We also continue to monitor the implementation of—and negotiate expansions in—prior cases, including recent successes in Alabama, where home-based services will be expanded for children with serious emotional disturbance and autism, and in North Carolina, where access to competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities is expanding. With your support, CPR will persevere in defending the rights of people with disabilities and all who are disenfranchised, so they can live safe, productive, and meaningful lives.*

*With gratitude,*

*Cathy Costanzo, Executive Director*

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### **CPR and Co-Counsel File Opposition Brief with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in *LUPE v. Abbott***

On November 21, 2025, CPR and co-counsel filed their opposition [brief](#) in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in *La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE) v. Abbott*. The case involves the state of Texas' appeal of a trial court [decision](#) which found that Texas' voter suppression law, S.B. 1, violates the rights of disabled voters under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the

Rehabilitation Act. The trial court concluded, after a six -week trial, that the state had failed to make reasonable modifications to avoid discrimination and "[a]s a result, voters with disabilities have experienced multiple ballot rejections and experienced humiliation, the loss of their privacy, and physical pain while voting."

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## **CPR and Disability Rights Partners Submit Comments Opposing New Public Charge Rule**

On December 19, 2025, CPR submitted on its own behalf and on behalf of 33 other national and state disability advocacy organizations comments opposing the Department of Homeland Security's proposed 'public charge' rule. This rule, if enacted, would allow DHS to deny entry to or remove anyone with a disability if they, their children, or their family members relied on any type of public resources for support. CPR and the other 33 organizations stated that the proposed rule would discriminate based on disability and violated the Administrative Procedures Act.

Additionally, on December 19<sup>th</sup>, CPR along with 35 other national disability advocacy organizations signed on to [comments](#) submitted by Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) opposing the proposed 'public charge' rule.

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## **CPR and Disability Rights Partners Condemn Anti-Trans Rulemaking**

On December 19, 2025, CPR, The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, The American Civil Liberties Union, Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, Justice in Aging and the National Health Law Program [joined](#) in solidarity with the transgender community to denounce discrimination against transgender people, including those with disabilities, and to condemn the anti-trans actions by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and this administration.

[Read More.](#)

## **Memorandum of Agreement Extended in North Carolina to Transform its Employment Service System for Individuals with I/DD**

CPR and Disability Rights North Carolina agreed to a one-year extension of a [Memorandum of Agreement](#) with the State of North Carolina to transform their employment service delivery systems and expand competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities. The updated agreement will be effective through September 30, 2026, and outlines specific benchmarks to reform the State's employment service system. Learn more about the Settlement Agreement, [here](#).

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## **CPR and Alabama P&A Secure Extension to Expand Home-Based Services for Children with SED and Autism**

CPR and the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) have negotiated a fifth Memorandum of Understanding ([MOU](#)) with several state agencies responsible for implementing a landmark 2017 Settlement Agreement. This Agreement requires the continued expansion of five home-based services for Medicaid-eligible children with serious emotional disturbance (SED) and the development of new home-based services for children with autism. This is the first settlement agreement in the country that ensures that home-based services are provided to children with autism. CPR and ADAP continue to meet quarterly with state officials to monitor implementation and delivery of these services. Learn more about the Settlement Agreement, [here](#).

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