

For Immediate Release
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Disability Action Coalition Hosts Annual Disability Capitol Action Day, Recognizing 20th Year Anniversary of ADA

Disability rights advocates (1500 – 2000) highlight proposed budget cuts that would drastically set back decades of civil rights gains

WHAT: Disability Capitol Action Day

WHO: Disability rights activists; Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund Senior Policy Analyst, Marylou Breslin

WHEN: May 26, 2010 -- March towards Capitol begins at 10:30 a.m., rally on west lawn until 3 p.m.

WHERE: March at 10:30 a.m. begins at 15th and L and assembles on the west lawn of the Capitol.

SACRAMENTO -- In one of the largest cross-disability events in the nation, the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC) will host the 7th annual Disability Capitol Action Day this Wednesday. CFILC will stand in solidarity with disability advocates to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the disability community's civil rights act, on the West Steps.

The event comes on the heels of the Governor's May budget revision, which threatens to slash funding and entirely eliminate programs that provide services and supports for children and adults with disabilities.

"The severe threats the State Budget presents to our ability to work, go to school, and live independently make it all the more important that people with disabilities raise our voices to let our elected officials know that people with disabilities are a vital part of California's communities," said Jessie Sandoval, Consumer Advocate.

"It's particularly fitting that we gather at the Capitol to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act," said Teresa Favuzzi, Executive Director of the CFILC. "On this day, we remember the disability community's leadership in achieving passage of this landmark civil rights bill, and we commit ourselves to continue the fight for full inclusion in schools, workplaces, and community activities."

Joining today's Disability Capitol Action day are dozens of youth leaders from the disability community who represent the next generation in disability rights activists. Earlier month, these youth leaders achieved Assembly passage of a landmark resolution that would recognize the significant advancements in civil rights achieved by the disability community and encourage schools and colleges to incorporate disability history into their classroom activities. ACR 162 authored Asm. Jim Beall D-San Jose, would designate the second week of October as Disability History Week.

Wednesday's event will begin with a march towards the West Steps of the Capitol, followed by prominent speakers from the disability rights community and those instrumental in fighting for rights, programs, and services that make it possible for people with disabilities to live independently. Following the speaker's program, participants will visit their legislators. From 10 am to 3pm, a resource fair featuring more than 25 vendors will be open to participants.

Organizations participating in Capitol Action Day include: The ARC of California, Access to Independence, CA Council of Community Mental Health Agencies, California Association of Marriage & Family Therapists, California Association of Public Authorities, California Coalition for Mental Health, California Disability Community Action Network, California IHSS Consumer Alliance, California Network of Mental Health Clients, Center for Independent Living - Berkeley, Communities Actively Living Independent & Free, Community Resources for Independent Living, Dayle McIntosh Center for the Disabled, Disability Rights California, FREED Center for Independent Living, Grey Panthers, Independent Living Resource Center San Francisco, Independent Living Center of Kern County, Independent Living Services of Northern California, Mental Health Association in California, Rolling Start, Inc., Placer Independent Resource Services, Resources for Independent Living, San Francisco Public Authority, Speech Communication Assistance by Telephone, Inc., SEIU California, United Domestic Workers.

CFILC is a Disability Rights Organization made up of Independent Living Centers across California whose mission is to advocate for barrier-free access and equal opportunity for people with disabilities to participate in community life by increasing the capacity of Independent Living Centers to achieve their missions. www.cfilc.org

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