

I was just informed of the 5:00 PM deadline for today and hope my comments can be included in this process.

I have been working with individuals with disabilities for the last 25+ years, participated in research over this duration, and generated many programs to help persons with disabilities, particularly those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (ID/DD) to be included in the community. We have a diverse world and disability is a necessary piece of this diversity. We should embrace this fact rather than develop communities where people can live, play, and work together. I think this “Village” is a move backwards in time to where persons were institutionalized and rights were violated. Olmstead moved us forward and public and/or private funding should not be spent to segregate persons with disabilities under any circumstance.

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