



*“More than two decades after passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, many states are still not taking the necessary steps to provide all individuals with disabilities the choice to live in their own homes and communities. Studies clearly show that home and community-based care is not only what people want, but is also more cost-effective. We must do better.” – HELP Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA)*

## **HELP Chairman Tom Harkin Introduces the *Community Integration Act***

The *Community Integration Act* addresses the need to provide all individuals with disabilities the opportunity to live in community-based settings. Though the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* ruled that the unnecessary segregation of individuals with disabilities in institutions is a violation of the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA), a [July 2013 report](#) released by Chairman Harkin’s HELP Committee staff found that more than 200,000 working-age Americans remain unfairly segregated in nursing homes.

While progress has been made nationally, by 2010 only 12 states spent more than 50 percent of Medicaid funds on community-based care instead of institutional care. Harkin’s *Community Integration Act*, introduced fifteen years after *Olmstead*, would ensure that states take the steps needed to ensure that all individuals with disabilities are given the opportunity to lead full and fulfilling lives in community-based settings.

### **The *Community Integration Act* would:**

- **Eliminate the Nursing Home Bias** in Medicaid by clearly allowing the provision of similar care or services in home and community based settings.
- **Prohibit states from making anyone ineligible for home- and community-based services based on a particular disability.**
- **Require states that have found an individual to be eligible for nursing or institutional care to similarly find those same individuals to be eligible for care in home and community-based settings.**
- **Set clear requirements for states regarding the provision of services in home and community based settings.**
- **Require annual reporting by states** about the number of individuals with disabilities in institutional settings and the number that have been transitioned to home- and community-based settings.

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*For more information, please visit <http://www.harkin.senate.gov> or contact any of Senator Harkin’s offices in Washington, D.C. or Iowa.*