

Who: [Name of the Center]

What: Celebration of the reintroduction of the Disability Integration Act

When: 3pm EST/2pmCST/1pmPST

Where: [Address of the event]

[Name of the Center/Organization] Celebrates the Reintroduction of the Disability Integration Act

[Name of the Center/Organization] will be joining Centers for Independent Living and disability rights advocates from across the country today by hosting a celebration for the reintroduction of the Disability Integration Act (DIA)! “When we heard the bill was going to be re-introduced we decided we had to celebrate!” said [Name of organizer/CIL director/staff member #1]. “This bill is vital to people with disabilities. DIA ensures that disabled people can live in freedom in our communities. It is bipartisan legislation that has a real chance to pass in this Congress.” The bill, which received bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House in the last Congress, is being reintroduced today. The celebration will include a livestream of the reintroduction ceremony in Washington, DC, as well as [describe locally based parts of the i.e. panel discussion on what the bill will mean for the work of the center, a Q&A about the bill, a party, food accessibility arrangements, etc.].

“DIA removes any question about who has the right to live in the community. It ensures that we all do!” said [Name of organizer/CIL director/staff member #2]. “This is the idea that the independent living movement was founded on. DIA will mean that disabled and elderly Americans no longer have to move into institutions to get the services we need to live our lives.” The bill ends what disabled activists have long called “the institutional bias” by requiring that any insurer offering long term supports and services must make them available in the community setting rather than only in institutions and nursing facilities.

Much of the excitement over the reintroduction comes from the feeling that DIA’s time has come. “The midterm elections changed everything. With Dems taking over the house, there is a real opportunity to pass the bill on the House side this year” said Kelly Buckland, Executive Director of the National Council for Independent Living. “As someone who uses attendant services and has spent time in a nursing facility, I can’t begin to express how exciting it is that this is finally going to happen.”

[Name of the Center]’s celebration is one of many happening simultaneously across the country. It is not a coincidence that the celebrations and the reintroduction are taking place on January 15th, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday. The Disability Rights movement has deep ties the Civil Rights leader and has long marked the day as Freedom Day, with celebrations of the progress that has been made and direct action aimed at furthering the cause. To many in the Disability Community the DIA was made for Freedom Day, and the day the legislation finally passes will forever be known as Disability Freedom Day!