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News

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Law Would Eliminate Stigmatizing Language

On November 17, U.S. Senator Barbara A Mikulski (D-MD) introduced Rosa's Law, a bipartisan bill, that would eliminate the terms "mental retardation" and "mentally retarded" from the federal law books. U.S. Senator Michael B. Enzi (R-WY), ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, is the Republican sponsor of the bill.

The Senators were commended by ANCOR, the American Network of Community Options and Resources, for their leadership in addressing one of the key underpinnings of continued discrimination against the seven million people living with intellectual disabilities in this country; whereby people are labeled and constrained by terms with a strong negative connotation in every-day lexicon," stated ANCOR CEO Renee Pietrangelo. "With this important step, the federal government would stand as a role model in honoring the fundamental human values of respect and dignity."

The legislation's namesake, Rosa, is a constituent of Senator Mikulski's, a child diagnosed with an intellectual disability. The bill calls for the terms "mental retardation" and "mentally retarded" to be replaced with "intellectual disability" and "individual with an intellectual disability" in federal education, health and labor law. The bill does not expand or diminish services, rights or educational opportunities. It simply makes the federal law language consistent with that used by the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization and the President of the United States, through his Committee on Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities.

Crystal Run Village, Inc. is one of 800 private providers represented by ANCOR, the national association whose membership provides community living and employment supports and services to more than 400,000 individuals with disabilities. ANCOR represents the interests of providers before Congress and federal agencies, provides technical assistance and professional development, promotes industry leading practices and offers other benefits. **For more information about ANCOR, visit www.ancor.org.**

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