



February 24, 2025

Office of the Attorney General of Iowa
Hoover State Office Building
1305 E. Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Attorney General Bird:

We, Iowa's Olmstead Consumer Taskforce (OCTF), write this letter to implore you to immediately drop out of *Texas v. Becerra*. We believe the current lawsuit presents a clear and present threat to the rights of people with disabilities in Iowa and across the nation.

Olmstead Consumer Taskforce exists for many reasons, some of which are to 1) monitor Iowa's response to the *Olmstead* decision, 2) advise policymakers about the needs of Iowans with disabilities, and 3) encourage state agencies to comply with *Olmstead* and other pivotal disability rights laws. Our Taskforce's bylaws and its members' deeply held beliefs about equal access and inclusion compel us to act.

Section 504 is a 52-year-old pillar of disability rights. It is a foundation upon which our predecessors built a case for *Olmstead* and the Americans with Disabilities Act. We believe your decision to sign onto and remain a party of *Texas v. Becerra* imperils those hard-fought victories.

We appreciate your attempts to clarify your purpose in a Joint Status Report filed on February 19, 2025. While this does supply a modicum of relief from the initial court filings, it **does not** substantively change the plaintiffs' explicit requests to enjoin Section 504 in its entirety, nor does it eliminate language specifically related to the application of *Olmstead*. Protection against discrimination in healthcare, education, and housing would still be at risk.

Iowans do not want this. People with disabilities do not want this. Parents do not want this. The Olmstead Consumer Taskforce does not want this. If you are committed to the rights of and protection for Iowans with disabilities as you have stated in recent weeks, there is only one action to take: **drop out of the lawsuit.**

We welcome any opportunity to speak with you about this and other important disability rights matters. We look forward to helping you include our voices in your work representing Iowans.

In Advocacy,

Executive Committee
Iowa's Olmstead Consumer Taskforce
Website: www.olmsteadrealchoicesia.org