



National Disability Rights Organization's Statement Supporting Oklahoma's QALY Ban

The American Association of People with Disabilities, the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, the National Council on Independent Living, Progressive Independence, TARC, and The Arc of the United States applaud Oklahoma's Governor Kevin Stitt for signing into law the Nondiscrimination in Health Care Coverage Act. This crucial legislation defends the equal dignity of people with disabilities by banning the use of the discriminatory Quality Adjusted Life Year (QALY) metric by state agencies and requiring the state to consult with disability organizations, including self-advocacy groups, prior to making decisions on coverage, reimbursement, and utilization management.

QALYs devalue the lives of people with disabilities by discounting disabled life relative to non-disabled life. Due to disability rights concerns, QALYs were prohibited for use in Medicare by the Affordable Care Act. Unfortunately, in recent years, some states have adopted the use of QALY-based analyses to slash costs by limiting access to essential medication for people with disabilities. In becoming the first state to prohibit the use of QALYs by state agencies, Oklahoma is acting to defend the rights of people with disabilities and placing itself in an important position of national leadership on this issue.

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The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) is a convener, connector, and catalyst for change, increasing the political and economic power of people with disabilities. As a national cross-disability rights organization, AAPD advocates for full civil rights for the over 56 million Americans with disabilities by promoting equal opportunity, economic power, independent living, and political participation. To learn more, visit the AAPD Web site: www.aapd.com.