

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 13, 2018

Mr. Lance Robertson
Administrator and
Assistant Secretary for Aging
Administration on Community Living
330 C St SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Robertson:

We are writing to request information about reported remarks that Principal Deputy Administrator Mary Lazare made this week regarding the *Olmstead* decision and the inclusion of people with disabilities within their communities.

We have received reports that in meetings this week with disability organizations, Ms. Lazare stated her belief that the *Olmstead* decision was wrongly decided and that she favored the “reinstitutionalization” and “segregation” of persons with disabilities. While we have not seen an actual transcript of her comments, Ms. Lazare has issued an apology of sorts that can be found on the Administration on Community Living’s (ACL) website:

Mary Lazare: I regret & apologize for my words at #ASAconf18. ACL believes ppl w/disabilities have the right & choice to live in the community. We work to expand those oppty's & are 100% committed to that mission. We also recognize *Olmstead* gives people the right to other choices.

The last sentence of this apology raises further concerns for us as it suggests a fundamental misunderstanding of the *Olmstead* Decision which has nothing to do with maintaining choice and everything to do with viewing the segregation of people with disabilities as a violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

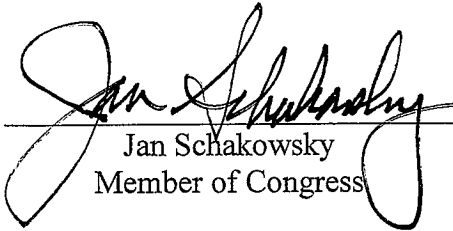
There are also reports from a different meeting, where Ms. Lazare apparently spoke the same day, that she believed CMS’s Home and Community Based Services rule should be revisited. As long time advocates of full inclusion for people with disabilities, we are disturbed by these reports.

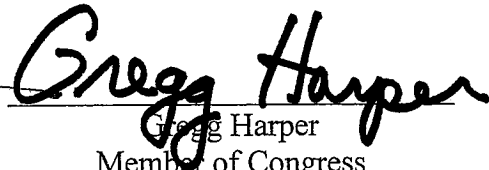
The mission of the Administration on Community Living states that “All Americans—including people with disabilities and older adults—should be able to live at home with the supports they need, participating in communities that value their contributions.” We would like

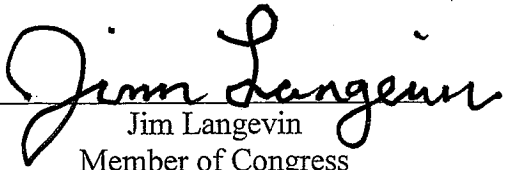
assurance that ACL leadership remains committed to the goals of integration and the principles of the *Olmstead* decision.

Given the importance of this issue, we hope to hear back from you within the week.

Sincerely,


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Gregg Harper
Member of Congress


Jim Langevin
Member of Congress