abilitypath

Dear Congressperson,

We are participants of the Healthy Relationship class at Ability Path. We are writing to advocate for marriage equality for disabled adults. In July 2023, Rep. Jimmy Panetta announced the re-introduction of the Marriage Equality for Disabled Adults Act to eliminate requirements that Disabled Adult Children (DAC) should remain unmarried to receive or retain lifetime benefits and health care through Social Security: such as SSI, SSDI, SSA and Medicare.

At Ability Path, our mission is to empower people with special needs to achieve their full potential through innovative inclusive programs and community partnerships. We currently serve over 1000 adults with disabilities daily in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. AbilityPath was founded in 1920 and has been serving people with disabilities for 103 years.

This letter represents the advocacy project of the Healthy Relationships class. Some participants of our class would like to get married but cannot afford to lose their benefits like SSI and Medicare which they depend on to maintain their quality of life.

Individually, as a class, and as an organization focused on the rights of the disability community to live a full and meaningful life, we support the Marriage Equality for Disabled Adults Act and ask you to please give it your full support.

Sincerely,

Karinda Kimble, Pam Marcus, Ross Macintosh, Bryanne Regala, Crisanta de Guzman, Edith Lambert, and Sarah Verity

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