

Aging and Disability Coalition (ADC):

A Statement of Solidarity – *Let's Not Go Back*

The Aging and Disability Coalition formed in direct response to various proposals, including the restructuring of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the dismantling of the Administration for Community Living (ACL)—these developments raise concerns about the visibility, integration, and effectiveness of programs serving older adults and people with disabilities. This is not just about a change in name or department, it's about the impact on the lives of millions.

In light of these developments, we came together—aging and disability advocates, service providers, and community leaders across California—because we believe we are stronger together.

Older adults and people with disabilities are often interconnected, and so are the programs and supports that serve them. As people age, the prevalence of disability increases. Older adults age into disability, and people with disabilities grow older. We believe in lifting up the services and supports needed for both communities to live their best lives—safely, independently, and with dignity.

Many of the programs at risk are not only essential—they are also evidence-based, cost-effective, and contribute to long-term cost avoidance by reducing the need for more expensive institutional care. Preserving and strengthening these programs is both a moral imperative and a sound fiscal strategy.

We are united by a shared vision:

- A California where all people, regardless of age or ability, can thrive in their communities
- A system that recognizes aging and disability as natural parts of the human experience and centers their needs in public policy
- Equitable investments in home and community-based services, caregiving, economic stability, and access to food, housing, and transportation
- A culture that actively rejects ageism, ableism, and structural injustice

As a new coalition, we pledge to work collaboratively—across sectors, systems, and communities—to uplift what has been built and push forward for what is still needed. We aim to elevate the voices of those most affected and promote inclusive approaches that reflect interdependence, inclusion, and respect for older adults and people with disabilities in California and across the country.