

**The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities’  
Statement on Texas v. Becerra  
March 4, 2025**

This lawsuit is an affront to the rule of law and fundamental human rights. Attorney General Paxton and the other 16 state attorney generals are using gender dysphoria as an excuse to challenge the constitutionality of section 504 simply because it is mentioned in the new home and community-based Services (HCBS) regulations. President Biden promulgated these new regulations in Section 504 to ensure that the states and US territories fully comply with the Olmstead Supreme Court ruling. That ruling made clear that governmental agencies must place individuals with disabilities in the most integrated setting in the community. The Olmstead ruling stated that it constitutes unlawful discrimination under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act to unnecessarily institutionalize people with disabilities who want to live in the community instead of institutions. President Biden wanted to codify that decision into the federal law by properly issuing these new regulations to the first civil rights act, that protects the rights of individuals with disabilities.

Yet, Texas v. Becerra only mentioned the integration mandate in a few pages of the complaint. Instead, Paxton used the majority of the complaint to attack a small part in these HCBS rules regarding gender dysphoria.

We cannot allow Paxton to strip away 50 years of protection of disability rights just to satisfy a political agenda. Doing so would desecrate the great work of Judith Heumann, who worked relentlessly to convince people in Congress to pass Section 504. We cannot stand by quietly while a small group of able-bodied people threatens our hard-won rights. As the great Texas Republican Justin Dart Jr. said, “I call for solidarity among all who love justice, all who love life, to create a revolution that will empower every single human being to govern his or her life, to govern the society and to be fully productive of life quality for self and for all.”

## **Sean Pevsner, CTD Board President Bio:**

As a native Texan with cerebral palsy Sean Pevsner is CTD's current board president and an attorney representing Texans with disabilities.

Sean graduated from high school taking mainstream classes in the Arlington Independent School District, as the first disabled student.

He went on to complete his Bachelor of Arts in Greek & Latin and his Doctor of Jurisprudence at the University of Texas at Austin.



During his tenure at UT, he advocated for civil & human rights for people with disabilities on and off campus. His collaboration with UT officials made several improvements to programmatic and physical accessibility at the university. Sean graduated from UT with his Bachelor of Arts in 1998, receiving several awards such as the UT Dean's Dozen Award for his advocacy and academic work.

He graduated from UT Law in 2004 with a Doctor of Jurisprudence and continues to assist Texans with disabilities in obtaining equal access to education, employment, and community services.

## **About the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities:**

Founded in 1978, CTD is the largest and oldest member-driven cross-disability organization in the state. "Cross-disability" refers to all types of disabilities and different functional needs, rather than a particular disability or subset of disabilities. CTD envisions a future where all Texans with all disabilities may work, live, learn, play, and participate fully in the community of their choice.

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