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“Disability Pride” Turns to Shame as Cuts Loom

Denver, CO — As Congress begins hearings on the FY 2026 federal budget, advocates in Colorado are sounding the alarm about proposed cuts that would devastate protections for people with disabilities.

At the center of the conversation: **Nancy Jensen**, a disability rights advocate and abuse survivor. Jensen, who lives in southern Colorado, is sharing her story across the country.

“I was abused in the Kaufman House in Newton, Kansas,” Jensen said. “Without oversight, it became a place of horror. If the state’s Protection and Advocacy agency had not intervened, I might still be there.”

For nearly 50 years, Protection and Advocacy agencies like Disability Law Colorado have been federally authorized to combat discrimination, abuse, and neglect. The proposed federal budget would cut P&A funding by more than 60 percent nationwide, threatening the civil rights of millions.

DLC is calling on Congress to reject these cuts. The agency is asking Coloradans to contact their representatives and urge them to fully fund the P&A system.

“When protections are stripped, people get hurt,” said DLC Executive Director **Andrew Romanoff**. “In some cases, they die.”

Jensen, who wrote a memoir and testified before a Congressional subcommittee about her experience, said Disability Pride Month is an especially poignant time. This July marks the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

“The ADA promised safety and dignity,” Jensen said. “But those rights only exist if someone is there to enforce them. That is what P&As do.”

Contact Communications Manager **Felix Ortiz** to schedule interviews with Andrew Romanoff or Nancy Jensen throughout the month of July.

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Disability Law Colorado is a nonprofit civil rights organization, authorized by federal law to combat discrimination, abuse, and neglect. We aim to make Colorado the best place in America for people with disabilities to thrive. For more information, visit disabilitylawco.org.