

# Respect-*ABILITY* Coalition

Dear Disability Rights Advocate:

We write to invite you to join the Respect-*ABILITY* Coalition. This Coalition will be a statewide cross-disability coalition dedicated to implementing the goals of the Disability Rights Agenda, the Respect-*ABILITY* Conference, and Capitol Action Day.

The Coalition will consist of organizations and individuals from throughout California for whom an essential part of their mission is disability rights issues, and who have committed to supporting and implementing the Disability Rights Agenda. We will include a variety of disabilities, racial & ethnic communities, ages, and perspectives. We will act together to formulate and implement policy on major issues facing the disability rights movement. We will also act in our individual and organizational capacities to develop and implement our own strategies to achieve the Disability Rights Agenda goals. The Coalition will provide support for our individual and organizational activities and a mechanism for sharing ideas and successful strategies.

As a member of the Coalition, you will be asked to articulate and implement a strategy pursuant to the Disability Rights Agenda and to report to, and work with, the Coalition. Organizational members will be asked to appoint a person within the organization to participate in the Coalition's activities and to receive and disseminate Coalition information and actions. Your successes will help form the basis of future Disability Rights Agendas, Respect-*ABILITY* Conferences, and Capitol Action Day events, as well. Your efforts will be models for other groups to follow to change the state of California for people with disabilities.

As an organizational member, your organization will be listed on Respect-*ABILITY* materials and will have the option to sign on or opt out of Coalition policies. Organizations and individual members will also have the option to participate on the Respect-*ABILITY* Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will meet quarterly and members will participate on subcommittees handling coalition projects. Steering Committee members will represent a diverse cross-section of disabilities, as well as other communities within the disability community. Steering Committee members will consist of both organizational and individual at-large members and will be liaisons with the broader Coalition membership.

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**Californians for Disability Rights • State of California Independent Living Council  
California Council of the Blind • California Network of Mental Health Clients  
Asian Rehabilitation Services • CA Democratic Party Disability Caucus  
Disability Rights Legal Center • Protection and Advocacy, Inc.  
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers**

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We hope you and/or your organization will join the Coalition and participate actively in transforming the disability rights movement in California. Enclosed is a membership form. **Please fill it out and return it to Catherine Blakemore at Protection and Advocacy, Inc.**

In the meantime, please feel free to call any of us with questions or concerns. We look forward to working together!

Sincerely,



Executive Director  
Disability Rights Legal Center

Protection and Advocacy Inc.  
California State Independent Living Council  
Californians for Disability Rights, Inc.  
California Network of Mental Health Clients  
State of California Independent Living Council  
California Foundation of Independent Living Centers  
California Democratic Party Disability Caucus  
Asian Rehabilitation Services, Inc.  
National Association of Law Students with Disabilities

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# Respect-*ABILITY* Coalition

## Respect-*ABILITY* Coalition Membership Application

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Organization

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Individual or Representative Name

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Address

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Phone

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Fax

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E-Mail

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Web Address

Return completed form to:

Catherine Blakemore  
Executive Director  
Protection & Advocacy, Inc.  
100 Howe Ave., Ste. 185-N  
Sacramento, CA 95825

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## Respect-*ABILITY* Coalition Membership Application

\_\_\_\_\_ (Individual or Organization Name)  
has approved and adopted the Disability Rights Agenda and is/are  
committed to pursuing one or more of the goals of the Disability Rights  
Agenda and to supporting the efforts of the Respect-*ABILITY* Coalition to  
implement the Disability Rights Agenda.

Organizations, please attach copy of mission statement.

DR Agenda Goal(s) I/we will pursue:

I/We would like to participate on the Steering Committee:

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Annual Organizational Budget: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues (see attached chart): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Made payable to: Protection & Advocacy, Inc.)

I request a waiver of dues because of inability to pay: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Authorized Representative

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