



## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 739

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### ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA OFFICE OF DISABILITY WITHIN THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

**WHEREAS** all people possess inherent worth and human dignity;

**WHEREAS** people with disabilities have a tremendous positive impact on Alabama's economy and social fabric but may encounter barriers in areas ranging from transportation and education to employment and housing;

**WHEREAS** state government can support Alabamians with disabilities in a variety of ways—from seeking their input and providing informational resources to advocating for them in policymaking and connecting them with employment opportunities;

**WHEREAS**, for over twenty-five years, the Governor's Office on Disability has effectively supported people with disabilities through a close working relationship with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS);

**WHEREAS** ADRS is the state executive-branch agency providing a continuum of care across the lifespan of Alabamians with disabilities through four major divisions, specifically, Alabama's Early Intervention System, Children's Rehabilitation Service, Vocational Rehabilitation Service, and the State of Alabama Independent Living/Homebound Program;

**WHEREAS** the State of Alabama will realize numerous efficiencies by reconstituting the Governor's Office on Disability (GOOD) as a new Alabama Office of Disability within ADRS;

**WHEREAS** taking this step is intended not only to maintain existing support for people with disabilities but indeed to enhance support for this vital group of Alabamians;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Alabama, do hereby establish the Alabama Office on Disability as an office

within the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, effective immediately, as further set forth below.

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of the Office shall be to ensure state government always supports Alabamians with disabilities to the maximum extent practicable and feasible.
2. **Leadership.** The Office shall be managed by a Director, who shall be appointed and supervised by the ADRS Commissioner.
3. **Duties.** The duties of the Office shall be as follows:
  - a. **Listening to Alabamians with disabilities.** The Office shall maintain local advisory committees around the State of Alabama for determining the unmet needs of Alabamians with disabilities and otherwise soliciting input with respect to state government support for Alabamians with disabilities.
  - b. **Monitoring disability policy developments.** The Office shall monitor state and federal legislation, regulations, and policies that affect people with disabilities.
  - c. **Serving as a statewide disability information clearinghouse.** The Office shall serve as a statewide clearinghouse for information on disability issues, compiling state and national resources for use in helping constituents. To this end, the Office shall accept referrals regarding disability issues from the Office of the Governor and state agencies.
  - d. **Collaborating on behalf of Alabamians with disabilities.** The Office shall collaborate with other organizations, agencies, and entities serving Alabamians with disabilities to increase efficiency in the use of available resources. The Office shall specifically collaborate with the four major divisions of ADRS, as well as additional ADRS programs, such as Assistive Technology, Rehabilitation Engineering, the Business Relations Program, and ADRS's many advisory groups of individuals with lived experience.

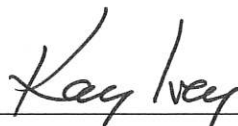
- e. **Advocating on behalf of Alabamians with disabilities.** The Office shall identify and communicate any identified unmet needs of Alabamians with disabilities to ADRS leadership and state and community partners. The Office shall analyze disability issues and develop disability policy recommendations in conjunction with the ADRS Commissioner, the ADRS Board, and ADRS divisions.
  - f. **Serving as a disability resource for Alabama business and industry.** The Office shall serve as a resource for Alabama businesses and industries regarding access, workforce supports, and connections to qualified candidates with disabilities.
  - g. **Continually seeking new ways to better serve Alabamians with disabilities.** The Office shall operate with a “continuous quality improvement” mindset, always seeking new ways to enhance services and outcomes for Alabamians with disabilities while also always seeking new ways to achieve greater efficiency within available resources and reduce or eliminate unnecessary government expense.
4. **Transition.** All functions, powers, authorities, duties, rights, responsibilities, entitlements, and any other legal interests of the Governor’s Office of Disability as of the effective date of this order – including any appropriations, funds, personnel, records, equipment, contractual rights, or other property – are hereby transferred from the Governor’s Office on Disability to the Alabama Office on Disability established by this order as an office within the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. The Governor’s Office on Disability shall remain in existence, and the Director of the Alabama Office on Disability is hereby designated the Director of the Governor’s Office on Disability, for the limited purposes of effectuating the transition contemplated by this paragraph.
5. **Implementation.** The order shall be implemented to the maximum extent possible consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations. Nothing in this order shall be construed as impairing or otherwise affecting the authority granted by law to an

executive branch agency, or the head thereof, including the Governor of the State of Alabama, except to the extent expressly set forth in this order.

6. **No private right of action.** This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any private party against the State of Alabama, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.
7. **Effect on prior related orders.** All previously issued executive orders providing for the Governor's Office on Disability—including, specifically, Executive Order No. 497 (April 28, 1999) (formerly Exec. Order No. 7 signed by Governor Don Siegelman), Executive Order No. 612 (October 9, 2008) (formerly Exec. Order No. 43 signed by Governor Bob Riley), and Executive Order No. 638 (May 16, 2011) (formerly Exec. Order No. 15 signed by Governor Robert Bentley)—are hereby rescinded. Any other previously issued executive order is hereby rescinded to the extent it conflicts with this executive order.

DONE AND ORDERED this 30th day of May 2025.



  
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KAY IVEY  
Governor

ATTESTED



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WES ALLEN  
Secretary of State