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Disability Rights Iowa celebrates forty years of Creating Change!

Disability Rights Iowa (DRI) advocates for justice, advances disability rights and protections Iowans with disabilities.

IOWA – Disability Rights Iowa proudly serves as Iowa’s Protection and Advocacy System. For 40 years, DRI has removed barriers encountered by Iowans with disabilities. Barriers have been removed through individual and systemic disability rights advocacy. Barriers have also been removed through impactful investigations regarding allegations of abuse and neglect. A few examples of DRI’s work include the Henry Turkey Farm Investigation, the Girls and Boys State Training School investigations, the Boys State Training School class action lawsuit, and the continual advocacy to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.

“40 years of advocacy is a milestone for our agency. It is a time of reflection, growth, and rededication to the significant disability rights issues impacting Iowa’s Disability Community. Our advocacy has given Iowans hope, preserved disability rights, removed disability barriers, and created change for Iowans with disabilities.” state Executive Director, Catherine Johnson. She adds, “It is through the dedicated efforts of the DRI team past and present, our board of directors, mental health advisory council, and our strong partnerships with stakeholders, agencies and the entire Iowa Disability Community that we can impact disability rights in Iowa and create change for Iowans with disabilities.” The work we have accomplished during our first forty years is only the beginning. I am excited for our agency to continue removing barriers and working toward a future of full equality and inclusion for all Iowans with disabilities.”

2024 is dedicated to honoring DRI’s history and to planning their future. Follow DRI online as we share themed social media posts, blogs about DRI’s history and more. DRI is eager to celebrate this anniversary with the community. Please follow us to learn about our plans to celebrate the past 40 years and the 40 years yet to come! DRI is excited to share our 40th Anniversary Logo. The Logo represents DRI’s core advocacy values. It also symbolizes DRI’s vision of ensuring equal access and inclusion. This logo features the number “40” in celebration of our anniversary. Inside the zero are the scales of justice used in the official DRI logo. Underneath is the phrase “forty years of creating change.” The phrase “Creating Change” defines our core values of civil rights, partnership, empowerment, equal access, justice, inclusion, intersectionality, dignity, and change.

Stay connected and help us celebrate the last four decades of advocacy all year long.

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About Disability Rights Iowa. *Advocating for justice. Advancing human and legal rights. Protecting Iowans with disabilities.* Learn more: www.driowa.org | Connect with us on Social Media at: [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#) | **Help us continue Creating Change:** Donate to Disability Rights Iowa at: [Mighty Cause](#)