

The National Disability Rights Network launches Wage and Hour Complaint Initiative

WASHINGTON, D.C., (Jul 2, 2014)-- Today, the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) has launched a 14(c) Wage and Hour Complaint Initiative to end the exploitation of people with disabilities and advocate fair pay for all. The campaign comes as our nation celebrates 24 years since the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and 15 years of Olmstead.

“We cannot sit on the sidelines when employers have created jobs that pay as little as 10% of the minimum wage to people with disabilities with most workers earning only 50% of the competitive wage rates,” said Curt Decker, NDRN’s Executive Director. “Why are people with disabilities so frequently segregated in congregate facilities working at a rate that is less than the minimum wage - a wage set by Congress for all other workers in the United States?”

NDRN will address this and many other questions during the campaign kickoff in July. They will host two webinars "The State of Sheltered Workshop: Ways to Advocate and Get Out," July 10, 2014 at 3:00 pm EST and the "Department of Labor 14(c) Wage and Hour Complaint Initiative," July 23, 2014 at 3:00 pm EST. Both are open to the public. Additionally, NDRN plans on releasing a final report on the 14(c) Wage and Hour Complaint Initiative findings by 2015.

“The Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Network has the means to join forces to collectively advocate to end segregated employment and sub-minimum wages, said Decker. “The Fair Labor Standards Act and many state labor laws provide methods to challenge the payment of sub-minimum wages, and the P&A network [will] use these tools to halt the inappropriate or illegal use of sub-minimum wages.”

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The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) is the nonprofit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems and the Client Assistance Programs (CAP) for individuals with disabilities. Collectively, the Network is the largest provider of legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the United States.