

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of June 3 to June 9, 2018

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Articles are listed in alphabetical order by state within each category, so you can easily scan through the articles for those within your state or other states in which you have an interest. *International* articles are near the end. The categories are: *Abuse and Neglect, Laws & Legislation, Studies & Statistics, Improved Supports, International*, and sometimes, *Miscellaneous*.

Check the categories below for a guide to the articles. The categories are indicated by type, articles are indicated by the number of the article.

PLEASE NOTE: Visit our website at www.disabilityandabuse.org While on the homepage, we invite you to “like” us at the bottom of the page, making it easier to keep up with our activities! Prior weekly newsfeeds are archived at: <http://disabilityandabuse.org/newsfeed/contents.htm>

Type of Abuse:

Sexual Assault/Exploitation: 2, 4, 9, 12, 15, 17, 20, 22, 26, 29, 31, 35, 43

Kept Enclosed: 25

Physical Abuse: 7, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18, 21, 23 (assault/attempted murder), 27, 44

Emotional/Verbal: 21

Financial: 28

Murder: 6, 16

Neglect: 6, 10

Wandered found dead: 1

Related to special education: 3 (segregation); 11, 21

Statistics: 24 (elder abuse) 30, 39

WINNER of most egregious award: 16: DeBrodie case; 22: Center designed to help abuse victims blocked most complaints, never reported cases to law enforcement or protective services; 62: New law: if you need more than three months to heal at rehabilitation center you will lose your home.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 6, 10, 15

Carer: 2, 14, 16, 20, 26, 27, 28

Law Enforcement: 18, 19, 43

Stranger: 7, 18, 35, 44

Acquaintance: 13

Gender (Note: not all articles identify gender of perpetrators.)

Men: 2, 4, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 20, 26, 27, 29, 31, 25, 44

Women: 6, 10, 15, 21, 28

Good News: 8: Woman moves from institution after 42 years to home with all supports needed; 32: Wisconsin offers nanny cams to families whose loved ones are receiving care; 53: Park renovation will be ADA accessible; 59: AG funds program to prevent repeat abuse for infants.

Bad News: 15: System failure leaves children with abusive mother;

ABUSE & NEGLECT

- 1. “Body of Missing Arizona Boy With Autism Found in River”** Authorities in western Arizona have found the body of an 8-year-old nonverbal autistic boy who had gone missing. A kayaker notified Bullhead City authorities early Sunday after coming across the child's body in the Colorado River. Bullhead City Police Chief Brian Williamson confirmed later Sunday morning that the remains were those of Jeremy Duncan, who went missing Saturday morning. – US News – June 3, 2018 – (Arizona) <https://is.gd/Ts5gYJ>
- 2. “Ex-group home staffer charged in sex assault of disabled man”** A former worker at a Pinole group home has been charged with sexually assaulting a man who is developmentally and intellectually disabled. Dawaun King, 36, of Richmond victimized a man from 2014 to 2017 while working at a home on Appaloosa Trail, authorities said. KTVU - June 1, 2018 (California) <https://is.gd/fsiGNS>
- 3. “Special needs students are segregated in ‘cramped’ and ‘unstable’ portables”** Parent says at Starr Elementary, on a rainy day second-grader Greyson Kelly didn’t get to leave his portable classroom even for lunch. His special day class was too far from the main building, across a walkway that would fill with puddles, leaving Greyson and his classmates inside portables that were cramped, unstable and lacking in natural light, according to Chrissy Kelly. “It’s segregation,” she said. “No general education students spent all day in those portables.”-Fresno Bee – June 4, 2018, (California) <https://is.gd/1aMbfK>
- 4. “Repeat Child Porn Offender Sentenced to 20 Years”** A Carpinteria man jailed in 2015 for a slew of child pornography charges was sentenced to 20 years in prison on Thursday. Law enforcement conducted a parole search of the home of Christopher Robin Coates, 43, in July and recovered digital devices containing over 1,000 images and 128 videos of child pornography. According to a press release from the Department of Justice, county court records show that Coates had prior convictions for child pornography possession and sexual assault of a disabled person. - Santa Barbara Independent- June 4, 2018 (California) <https://is.gd/5ZO5i4>

5. **“Identifying the signs of elder abuse”** What is elder abuse? In general, elder abuse refers to intentional or neglectful acts by a caregiver or “trusted” individual that lead to, or may lead to, harm of a vulnerable elder. Physical abuse, neglect, emotional or psychological abuse, financial abuse and exploitation, sexual abuse and abandonment are considered forms of elder abuse. Self-neglect is also considered mistreatment. - Daily News- June 1, 2018 (California) <https://is.gd/hPOWIE>
6. **“Mom who starved autistic son sentenced to 11 years in prison”** A Connecticut mother who withheld food from her autistic teenage son until he died weighing just 84 pounds was sentenced Tuesday to 11 years in prison. Katiria Tirado, 34, of Hartford, was also sentenced to five years of probation by a judge who said the mother “failed to provide her son with the basics necessary for life.” New York Post – June 5, 2018 (Connecticut) <https://is.gd/djtmbX>
7. **“Man arrested, two on the run after allegedly beating disabled veteran”** One man is in custody and two others are on the run after they allegedly ambushed a disabled veteran at gunpoint and stole his car. Jail records show Cobb County police arrested Demetris Carter on Thursday for his alleged role in the brutal assault of disabled veteran Darryl Grant. –AJC- June 1, 2018 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/Nl2UpI>
8. **“After 42 Years in Institutions, a Home of Her Own”** Georgia has kept 44-year-old Lucretia Felder in state institutions, from foster care to a prison hospital, for 42 years. On Friday, a judge gave the state 90 days to find her a home. Felder, whose case was the focus of a recent investigative story in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, will live alone but will have full-time caregivers. Medicaid, the government health care program for the poor and people with disabilities, will pay for Felder’s care; Felder has an intellectual disability and has been diagnosed with a mental illness. - June 5, 2018- Disability Scoop – (Georgia) <https://is.gd/KYtfhs>
9. **“Man charged with sexually abusing disabled woman”** A Lewiston man has been charged for allegedly sexually abusing a mentally disabled woman. Simon Dewater, 57, is charged with one count of sexually abusing a vulnerable adult. Court records indicate Dewater allegedly had been abusing a woman in her 40s since November. Tribune- May 30, 2018- (Idaho) <https://is.gd/E7f6ls>

10. **“Mother waives hearing in adult daughter’s abuse case”** A woman accused of keeping her adult intellectually disabled daughter locked in a bedroom in her home has waived her preliminary hearing. Kimberly Williams, 47, filed the waiver Wednesday through her attorney, Barbara Maness, in Scott County District Court. – May 31, 2018- Iowa – <https://is.gd/s2EqzL>

11. **“Davenport PTO: Suing district possible in connection to special education”** Members of the Davenport District Wide PTO developed a set of action plans in regard to special education, including consideration of a lawsuit against the Davenport School District. Parents, teachers, administrators and other community members met for two hours Saturday morning at Davenport Public Library Eastern Avenue Branch- Quad City Times- June 2, 2018 – (Iowa) <https://is.gd/tTmDwz>

12. **“Man arrested in rape of disabled teen”** A 24-year-old man is accused of raping and repeatedly sexually assaulting a girl whom police described as "clearly special needs," according to arrest records. The 16-year-old girl told her mother about the abuse Monday. Her mother called police. Police then interviewed Christopher Baskin, whom the girl had identified as her attacker, arrest records show. Police say Baskin admitted to the crimes and was booked with first-degree rape and three counts of sexual battery - WBZR- Channel 2- June 4, 2018- (Louisiana) <https://is.gd/eUazdW>

13. **“Man indicted in assault on disabled girlfriend”** A Boston man has been indicted on charges that he assaulted his disabled girlfriend and then struggled with two Danvers police officers trying to arrest him last March. The Salem News- May 30, 2018 – (Massachusetts) <https://is.gd/xvMjFw>

14. **“DA: Tewksbury man facing elder abuse charges”** A Tewksbury man accused of abusing an elderly woman who later died is facing elder abuse charges, officials say. Steven Gordon, 55, was arraigned Thursday in Middlesex Superior Court on charges of caretaker abuse of an elder causing serious bodily injury and caretaker abuse of an elder permitting bodily injury, according to a statement issued Saturday by Middlesex District Attorney Marian T. Ryan’s Office- Channel 7 News – June 2, 2018 – (Massachusetts) <https://is.gd/152oNw>

15. **“Minneapolis mom faces new charges of sexually assaulting, torturing children- The new complaint adds on to accusations of child abuse she’s already facing.”** A

Minneapolis woman who was arrested in February on suspicion of child abuse faces new charges accusing her of raping two of her children, leaving them with a sexually transmitted disease. A 13-count criminal complaint filed Monday alleges that the woman engaged in a pattern of physical and sexual abuse, which was first disclosed in May. An expert concluded the abuse amounted to torture. Star Tribune- June 4, 2018 (Minnesota) <https://is.gd/GqqukW>

16. “Missouri man with mental disability found dead after months of abuse at private care home” Carl DE Brodie was found dead months after he was reported missing, his body encased in concrete. A Missouri private care home has been accused of “wrongful death” for its alleged abusive treatment of a man with developmental disabilities, who, according to an amended lawsuit filed Tuesday, was forced to do manual labor, sleep on the basement floor, and fight with another man for the “amusement” of the care home staff. Think Progress- May 31, 2018 (Missouri) <https://is.gd/eoNl2r>

17. “Joplin man accused of sexual abuse of disabled woman” A 50-year-old Joplin man waived a preliminary hearing Thursday on a charge that he sexually abused a disabled woman. William M. Edge Jr. waived the hearing in Jasper County Circuit Court on a charge of second-degree sexual abuse and was ordered bound over for trial by Associate Judge Joe Hensley. – The Joplin Globe - May 31, 2018 (Missouri) <https://is.gd/8scTgE>

18. “Disabled Robbinsville family gets \$200K after cop attack” The township has paid out crazy money to settle three lawsuits brought after a cop went “off his rocker” and assaulted “a wheelchair-bound mom” and her 4-year-old son during a psychotic meltdown. – The Trentonian News- May 29, 2018 (New Jersey) <https://is.gd/3Plj2X>

19. “NJ police officer charged after alleged assault of hospital patient”- A New Jersey police officer is out on bond after accusations of conspiring to cover up the assault of a hospital patient, a spokesman for the US Attorney's Office in New Jersey said Thursday. Roger Then, 29, a City of Paterson police officer, was charged Wednesday with conspiring to violate an individual's civil rights and with misprision of felony for concealing that civil rights violation, the US attorney's office said. CNN- June 1, 2018 – (New Jersey) <https://is.gd/adHTxU>

20. “Caregiver Sentenced for Engaging in Sex with Disabled Child” Westchester County District Attorney Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr. announced today that Jared Hobbs

was sentenced to 32 years in state prison for engaging in sexual intercourse and other sex acts with a child who is disabled while he was entrusted as her caregiver while her single mother worked. HVNN- May 31, 2018- New York – May 31, 2018 - <https://is.gd/X3TPkD>

21. “ ‘Slap him. That's what I do': Lackawanna family sues district over alleged abuse” A then a 6-year-old student at Truman Elementary School in Lackawanna reached for a wire hanging from a loudspeaker in the cafeteria last October. A teacher’s aide slapped his hand, according to a complaint filed with the state. Two days later, the same aide was seen yelling at the child and threatening him. Less than a month later, when the same child reached for the gun belt of a school security officer, the aide said: “Slap him. That’s what I do.” The Buffalo News – May 31, 2018 – New York - <https://is.gd/qiKKz6>

22. “Kiyonaga involved in much deeper scheme to cover-up sexual assaults” News stories and reports paint a picture of horrific personal behavior, but the much bigger and far more disturbing story is that almost all reported sexual assaults of the disabled under Jay Kiyonaga’s watch never were reported to local police or county District Attorneys. –EIN Press Wire- June 4, 2018 New York - <https://is.gd/lzP2RJ>

23. “Bridgeport woman lucky to be alive after knife attack” A disabled Bridgeport woman told News 12 Saturday that she is lucky to be alive after surviving a brutal knife attack on Tuesday. – June 2, 2018 (New York) <https://is.gd/x2EQyW>

24. “1 in 14: The startling truth about elder abuse” A common stereotype is that the prevailing amount of abuse to older adults occurs under the care of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. The reality is that 60% of elder abuse and neglect occurs at the hands of family members (Lachs, M., & Pillemer, K. 2015). ABC Eye Witness News- May 31, 2018 (North Carolina) <https://is.gd/FjY6s1>

25. “Recommendation to revoke three Howland group homes' licenses” The more than 15 violations also include no documentation of training for several staff members, staff and in some cases family members administered medications, and the agency did not report allegations of possible abuse and or neglect to the state within 24 hours or at all. Shamansky pointed out pictures of the slide locks on the top edges of the homes' exterior doors as "chilling" because of a potential fire safety issue. WFMJ – June 1, 2018 (Ohio)

26. “DA: Nanny cam catches care provider in acts of abuse, mistreatment” - Craig Randleman was reported by 14-year-old disabled child’s mother. A Bend man was caught by home security cameras masturbating in the home of a child with developmental disabilities he was supposed to be providing care for. Craig Michael Randleman, 54, is also accused by the Deschutes County district attorney of taking an hourlong nap while on duty in the home of the child, who is 14 but has cognitive functioning of a 2-year-old and requires constant care. The Bulletin- June 4, 2018 (Oregon) <https://is.gd/vejRx0>

27. “Officials call for Palin’s resignation” Local and state officials are calling for the resignation of Coventry Fire District Board of Directors Chairman Frank Palin following charges of indecent assault and battery that surfaced last week out Massachusetts. According to the Canton, MA Police Department, Palin has been arrested and charged with assaulting an elderly and disabled patient over the age of 65 while working at Cornerstone in Canton for Old Colony Hospice and Palliative Care, where he is a part-time registered nurse. A family member of a patient reportedly placed a camera in her room on which they captured the alleged assault during a routine check-up on May The family reported it to police that day- Coventry Courier – June 4, 2018 (Rhode Island) <https://is.gd/T2ROX5>

28. “Caretaker pleads guilty to stealing from disabled clients” A former caretaker for people with intellectual disabilities has been placed on probation after pleading guilty to stealing from clients. Jessica Rivera, 29, of Sergeant Bluff, pleaded guilty Tuesday in Woodbury County District Court to one count of dependent adult abuse. District Judge Julie Schumacher suspended a five-year prison sentence and placed Rivera on probation for three years. - SUX 911 –June 5, 2018 (South Dakota) <https://is.gd/Zxmu7v>

29. “Learning-disabled Chattanooga man sentenced to 8 years in prison for sexual battery”-A 20-year-old, learning-disabled man was sentenced to eight years in prison Monday for a 2014 sexual assault case involving an elderly man. But Diontae Smartt could spend less time behind bars if a judge decides to give him jail credit for nearly three years he spent wearing an ankle monitor. Public defenders argued Smartt, then 17, was on his way to the bus stop near 1131 W. Mississippi Ave. on Sept. 29, 2014, when a neighborhood jogger, then 69, asked to have sex with him. Though prosecutors said

Smartt raped the man during this encounter and they tried him as an adult, public defenders countered Smartt was lashing out at a situation he wasn't equipped to handle.- Times Free Press- June 5th, 2018- (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/AuNPmy>

30. “Harrison County declares Elder Abuse Prevention Month” By Robin Y. Richardson - Last year, Adult Protective Services investigated 280 reports of abuse to the disabled and elderly in Harrison County. Of those, in-home caseworkers confirmed 59 cases of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation. To bring awareness to the issue, the Harrison County Commissioners Court passed a proclamation, on Tuesday, at the court’s regular meeting, declaring the month of May as Elder Abuse Prevention Awareness Month in Harrison County. The News Messenger- May 30, 2018 (Texas) <https://is.gd/KKYbG3>

31. “Lake Brownwood man indicted on 2 counts of sex crimes against mentally disabled woman” A grand jury has indicted a Lake Brownwood man for reportedly sexually assaulting a mentally disabled woman on two separate occasions. Jason Scott Smith, 43, of Lake Brownwood, was indicted during the May session of the 35th Judicial District's grand jury hearing for two counts of aggravated sexual assault, according to court documents. Smith was arrested in April for allegedly raping a 20-year-old woman "who has the mental status of an 8 to 10-year-old child." ABC- May 30, 2018 (Texas) <https://is.gd/crJSuQ>

32. “Concerned about elder abuse, states loan out secret cameras” Many cases like this one in 2016 unfold every year across the nation, often going unresolved because of the special difficulties that make elderly people especially vulnerable to mistreatment or crime. Now Wisconsin is taking a radical step to curb abuse and get reliable evidence for prosecutions — handing out free surveillance cameras to family members so they can secretly record caregivers suspected of hurting their loved ones- Associated Press- June 4, 2018 (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/MHK84p>

GUARDIANSHIP

33. “The Tennessee Supported Decision-Making Agreement Act: What’s it all about?”- The sponsor of this legislation in the Senate, Becky Massey, described the SDMA as a “less-restrictive alternative” to a Power of Attorney or Conservatorship.”

(Senate Judiciary Committee 1/30/18). Essentially, the bill allows a disabled person to appoint a supporter. That supporter can collect confidential information, explain all the information that the disabled person needs to make a decision, and communicate the disabled person's decision, among other things. Jackson Sun- June 1, 2018 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/0CKJxc>

INTERNATIONAL

34. **“Croatia Stalled Progress for People with Disabilities Thousands in Institutions, Not Allowed to Make Own Choices”** Thousands of children and adults with disabilities remain trapped in institutions a decade after Croatia ratified the international disability rights treaty, Human Rights Watch said today. Many more are denied the right to make any decisions for themselves. -May 31, 2018 - (Brussels) <https://is.gd/BjBVys>
35. **“Disabled girl raped in Jharkhand’s Dhanbad, accused absconding”** The accused dragged the girl to the bushes when the mother, who takes her daughter for morning walks every day after a doctor’s advice, moved ahead. A 15-year-old disabled girl was allegedly raped on Tuesday by a security inspector of a coal mine while she was on a morning walk with her mother in Jharkhand’s Dhanbad district, police said.- Hindustan Times – June 5, 2018 – (Dhanbad) <https://is.gd/AhfNry>
36. **“Austerity logic’ led to worse housing for people with disabilities: expert”** Catherine Frazee says Nova Scotia's 1990s freeze on 'small-options' homes put saving money ahead of people - The Canadian Press · Posted: Jun 04, 2018 (Canada) <https://is.gd/140eGF>
37. **“Seven years on from Winterbourne View, why has nothing changed?”** People with learning disabilities are still at risk of being abused and dying unnecessarily in institutions. This is unacceptable. This week is the seventh anniversary of BBC Panorama’s exposure of the systematic abuse of people with learning disabilities at Winterbourne View hospital in Gloucestershire. The Guardian- May 30, 2018 (England) <https://is.gd/aE5gmA>
38. **“Grandad in plea after autistic boy's hospital ordeal”**- A devoted grandfather and his special-needs grandson have had to spend the week in Tallaght Hospital A&E department in a desperate bid to secure respite care for the teenager. Gerard Tracey from Clondalkin, and his grandson Sean (16), have been in an adult cubicle with no natural

light in the busy A&E department since Monday. -News Health - June 2, 2018 Ireland <https://is.gd/Kid2ho>

39. “Almost 600 children and adults are waiting to be assessed for Autism locally, with health officials warning resources cannot meet the soaring demand.” The Western Trust has confirmed that the numbers referred for assessment and intervention has risen dramatically. And this has now prompted Trust representatives to relay concerns to both the Health and Social Care Board and Department of Health. At present there are 493 children and 81 adults across Derry, Limavady, Strabane and the wider western region, waiting to begin assessment to detect if they are on the Autism spectrum. – Derry Journal- June 1, 2018- (Ireland) <https://is.gd/Y9ugp4>

40. “Israel detains handicapped Palestinian without charge” Mentally-disabled Palestinian man placed in ‘administrative detention’ without trial, charge. The Israeli authorities have placed Nidal Abu Ayash, a 28-year-old mentally-disabled Palestinian man, in “administrative detention” for six months. Abu Ayash, who hails from the town of Beit Ummar near Hebron (Al-Khalil), is now being held at Israel’s Ofer Prison near the West Bank city of Ramallah. – Anadolu Agency- June 5, 2018 – (Palestine)- <https://is.gd/xix504>

41. “Voiceless, stateless, loveless: foster carers leap to defense of vulnerable children” Speaking on the International Day for the Protection of Children, the National Foster Care Association Malta said it wanted to raise awareness about children being deprived of their fundamental rights. Children who are not freed up for adoption after being abused by relatives, and those deprived of citizenship despite being born in Malta, are having their fundamental rights breached, foster careers are warning. Times Malta- June 2, 2018 - <https://is.gd/hIepmy>

42. “Fair Game for Nepal: Make disability rights REAL” The Turkish Airlines ENGAGE Empowering League, running from 2-30 June, acts as a catalyst for social change. Social inclusion is a long-term goal that requires multiple efforts from a different range of areas and sector. A combination of sport for development and volunteerism can truly make the difference in terms of creating the foundations for a more just and inclusive society. Bringing people together for a common cause and mobilizing volunteers to serve for a cause within the framework of a sport for

development initiative is one of the best ways to achieve social change - Sport and Dev.org – June 5, 2018 –(Nepal) <https://is.gd/2a1anS>

- 43. “IDEA services blasted over treatment of vulnerable man found with surgical glove in his bowel.”** A man with severe intellectual and physical disabilities in the care of IDEA Services was found to have a surgical glove in his bowel after a suspected sexual assault - stuff- May 31, 2018 (New Zealand) <https://is.gd/gFnTfU>
- 44. “Disabled man attacked outside pub slams police who cuffed him and took control of his electric wheelchair”** Drew Lockerbie, who has multiple sclerosis and osteo-arthritis, was attacked by three men who punched him and tried to drag him from his wheelchair. Daily Record -June 1, 2018 (Scotland) <https://is.gd/pPVku1>
- 45. “Protecting vulnerable adults needs community support”** We thank Mr. Jeffrey Law Lee Beng for his support for the Vulnerable Adults Bill and his call for clarity on what constitutes abuse and neglect (Clarifying what constitutes abuse, neglect will make Bill effective; May 26). The Vulnerable Adults Bill defines key terms such as abuse and neglect. Abuse includes behavior that causes physical pain or injury through harmful acts such as beating, pushing, choking or forcing individuals to engage in sexual activity. The Straits Times – June 4, 2018- (Singapore) - <https://is.gd/ASswR7>
- 46. “Thelma Walker, Labour, Colne Valley : “Disabled passengers in my constituency have been told that they will not be able to catch certain trains as TransPennine has rolled out old stock to try to fix the broken timetables and reduce delays.”** Does the Transport Secretary agree that this is discrimination and unacceptable? Will he intervene to tell TransPennine that it must make sure that each train is compliant with disability legislation- Huddersfield Examiner- June 5, 2018 (United Kingdom) <https://is.gd/TVhBWx>
- 47. “Assisted dying law is about choice, not getting rid of disabled people”** Disabled people are too self-regarding when, like Jamie Hale, they make out that legalizing assisted dying is all about getting rid of disabled people (We’re told we are a burden. No wonder disabled people fear assisted suicide, 1 June). Nor is it, as Jamie suggests, about licensing the deliberate taking of someone else’s life. It is about giving terminally ill, mentally competent people the choice of an assisted death when palliative care no longer suffices. All importantly, the terminally ill person has to ask and two independent

doctors have to agree. The Guardian- June 3, 2018- (United Kingdom)
<https://is.gd/cdPnXk>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

- 48. “Legislation to support New Yorkers with disabilities passes NYS Assembly”** The NYS Assembly announced the passage of a legislative package to help ensure equality and fairness for New Yorkers with disabilities by strengthening anti-discrimination protections and improving access to critical resources. It was passed in recognition of this year’s Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day, which is May 30 Times Union – June 2, 2018 (New York) <https://is.gd/ecCtRh>
- 49. “LePage to push for child protection reforms, seek criminal penalties for failure to report suspected abuse”** He also says family reunification should not be a priority in such cases, as dozens of experts and parents speak to a legislative panel following the deaths of two young girls. May 31, 2018 – (New York) <https://is.gd/J5gQNF>
- 50. “Disabled Homeless People Fight San Diego RV Laws”** A disability rights attorney told a federal judge Thursday that a San Diego city code outlawing overnight parking of RVs discriminates against disabled people living in vehicles, in a city grappling with a homelessness crisis.- Court House News Service -June 1, 2018 — California- <https://is.gd/5v0abq>
- 51. “State lawmaker demanding changes at group homes following WBRZ report”** State Senator Regina Barrow took the first steps Thursday to make sure more regulations are in place for people who run group homes. She submitted a resolution creating a task force which will impose those regulations on them. WBRZ- Channel 2 – May 31, 2018 (Louisiana) <https://is.gd/Gz4AJ7>
- 52. “Guest Column: Bill will harm disabled more than help”** The Eastern New York Developmental Disabilities Advocates (ENYDDA), is an independent all-volunteer organization of hundreds of parents and families of developmentally disabled individuals in the greater Capital Region and eastern upstate New York. Our mission is to educate and inform policy makers, the media and the public on issues impacting our disabled children and loved ones. On May 6 the Sunday Gazette published an editorial

supporting, among other things, the enactment by the state Legislature of a bill (S.4746B/A.6830A). –The Daily Gazette – June 6, 2018 (New York) <https://is.gd/Ztwjye>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

- 53. “Arcata Ball Park set to be renovated after Crabs complete season”** The City of Arcata and the Humboldt Crabs are teaming up to renovate the Arcata Ball Park. The two parties say their top priority is upgrading the park's bleachers and making the entire ball park compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)- KRCA News- June 5th 2018- (California) <https://is.gd/q57m4B>
- 54. “Hickenlooper authorizes study of treating autistic children with marijuana day after veto”** - The day after Gov. John Hickenlooper vetoed a bill that would have made autism a condition that qualifies for medical marijuana, Lt. Gov. Donna Lynne signed an executive order calling for more research. Lynne signed the order because Hickenlooper was traveling Wednesday to give a speech in Detroit, his office said.- The Gazette- June 6, 2018 – (Colorado) <https://is.gd/BxHykJ>
- 55. “Social media helps protect domestic abuse survivor from losing her home”** Online group shows social media as force of good” We hear stories all the time about the downsides of social media. Scams, crimes, privacy breaches and political division. But this time social media is uniting a Bay Area community and saving a single mom from losing her home. - ABC Action News - May 30, 2018 (Florida). <https://is.gd/O97TBT>
- 56. “New Mexico Ramp Project helps elderly, disabled”** - Alexander Granado, who's Alzheimer's, arthritis and thyroid problems have left him confined to a wheelchair, needs a ramp to leave his house in Chaparral. Saturday, volunteers with the New Mexico Ramp Project helped build proper ramps from the Granados' front door to the ground, helping Alexander achieve some freedom. - Sun News- June 3, 2018 (New Mexico) - <https://is.gd/9S6fMJ>
- 57. “Four Watervliet parks to get ADA-complaint swings”** The four swings, all Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, are the result of a community effort, said Councilman Charles Patricelli. Patricelli said people have talked about the need for these types of swings in city parks for a while now, and thanks to fundraising events hosted by the Parks Committee and community donations, the swings will be shipped

within the next week and should be installed by the end of summer. -The Record- June 4, 2018 (New York) <https://is.gd/nCUrwf>

58. “DFL Delegate Strives to Give a Voice to Those Without One” There are 3,000 extra people in Rochester this weekend for the state DFL Convention. Half of those are delegates. One of those delegates is Justin Smith, a public speaker, blogger and disability rights advocate. He's only 19 years old, and he's already become a leader for people with disabilities. “It is important for me to make my voice heard and show up and to be an advocate for the change. That's why I am a delegate,” Justin said. “It's important that people with disabilities are included in meaningful ways. That includes being involved in the political process.”- ABC 6 News – June 1, 2018 (Minneapolis) <https://is.gd/BUETIP>

59. “DeWine announces new phase in child abuse prevention project” Eight large pediatric practices across Ohio will join in the effort to intervene in, and identify possible child abuse. According to the Ohio Attorney General's office, more than 30,000 children are subjected to child abuse each year in Ohio. DeWine funded the Recognition of Abusive Injuries (TRAIN) Collaborative with a \$1 million grant from settlement funds to OCHA in 2015. The purpose of TRAIN is to prevent repeat child abuse in the most vulnerable population, infants six months and younger -WKBN- June 4, 2018- (OHIO) <https://is.gd/QoZcdm>

MISCELLANEOUS

60. “The Benefits of Employing People with Autism - Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Not a term that rolls off the tongue easily but increasingly big corporations such as Microsoft and SAP have launched programs to attract candidates with ASD for roles which require certain skill sets. Forbes Magazine, - May 30, 2018- New Jersey - <https://is.gd/Vc4ERE>

61. “I'm Autistic & Performing Poetry Helped Me Find My Niche”- While being autistic presents me with a lot of frustrating challenges, it also gives me a lot of gifts. June 1, 2018-Elite Daily- (New York) - <https://is.gd/AKXmQO>

62. “Commentary: 'Permanently placed' provision erodes rights of disabled”- New York State just put a very dangerous provision in the latest state budget. Disabled or not, accident or illness can put you in a circumstance where you have to spend some time in a rehab facility. The provision that was slipped into the new budget states that if you use long-term care services at home under Medicaid and your time in rehab exceeds three months, then you will be considered "permanently placed," and you will lose eligibility for all other programs you need for your independence. You could lose personal assistance in your home. You could lose your home. Transunion -May 31, 2018 (New York) <https://is.gd/YzTCqu>

63. “Brazos County Commissioners Court Hears Statistics Of Elderly And Disabled Abuse”- A proclamation read at this week’s Brazos County commissioners court meeting by county Judge Duane Peters brought attention to the abuse of local seniors and the disabled. May 31, 2018 (Texas) - <https://is.gd/reFp8z>