April 21, 2020

**States Develop COVID-19 Rationing Strategies**

State officials are using the coronavirus crisis to promote rationing. Disability groups in at least five states have submitted complaints to the Office for Civil Rights. The Disability Law Center in Utah says people with disabilities are “in danger of being given a lower priority for life-saving care than their non-disabled peers.”

The Center notes that the new “Patient Prioritization Tool” explicitly “deprioritize[s] people with disabilities.” People with neuromuscular diseases, brain injuries, cystic fibrosis and other conditions could be excluded. According to the complaint, the policy treats people with disabilities as though “their lives are not worth living.” The core of government-run health care systems is rationing. The weak are often the first ones targeted.

**Letter to Director Roger Severino, Office for Civil Rights, HHS, from Disability Law Center, April 6, 2020:** [https://bit.ly/3cv8OYy](https://bit.ly/3cv8OYy)