

INDIANA DISABILITY AMENDMENT

The Indiana Constitution's Bill of Rights shall be amended to alleviate the impacts of heinous and longstanding past discrimination based on disability. There being no current disability-specific protections in the Indiana Constitution, this shall be adopted with celerity.

WHEREFORE, the following language shall be added to the Bill of Rights of the State of Indiana and all public officers shall be bound to uphold this amendment.

38/39. People with mental and physical disabilities are a protected Indiana class with fundamental rights to life, liberty, and property and freedom from discrimination, harm, and exclusion based on disability. People with disabilities have a right to privacy, especially in medical and insurance matters. Parents with disabilities have a right to parenting time and this shall not be infringed absent a showing beyond a reasonable doubt that a disabled parent poses a direct risk of physical harm to a child. All law schools in Indiana shall collect statistics on disability in law school admissions as Harvard Law School does and shall publish this data on its website alongside the ABA data reported each year. No ADA coordinator or similar officer shall hold a position of legal

counsel for the same agency or office. No ADA coordinator has any power to retaliate against an ADA complaint to that officer or that office. Use of the word “frivolous” by a judge or justice to disparage any disability lawsuit shall be a criminal offense and the judge shall be punished accordingly for the offense, which shall also be an ethical violation. These rights have not had adequate protection in the past. No state officer or employee, including legislators and judges and justices and statewide office holders or any local government officer or entity shall discriminate based on disability and all discrimination based on past interpretations of the Indiana Constitution are hereby utterly void. No judge or justice shall implement any rule or decision that harms a person with disabilities in any fashion. No judge or justice shall take any action to punish a disabled lawyer or prevent them from practicing law and all cases brought to defend any asserted disability rights shall be immune from being labeled “frivolous” or punished as such. Attorney Andrew U. D. Straw is hereby completely exonerated of all attorney discipline. Indiana recognizes his civil rights work for people with disabilities and his past work and efforts in this area are hereby deemed wholly worthy of praise by the People of Indiana. He shall henceforth have the

constitutional title of **Hoosier Champion of People with Disabilities**. Attorney Andrew U. D. Straw shall not be disturbed again in his disability work by the Indiana Supreme Court or any of its employees or officers. His law license is hereby no longer under the control of the Indiana Supreme Court and instead is granted as part of this Bill of Rights. He was physically disabled in service to the Indiana Supreme Court and shall be granted the additional title of **Hoosier Judicial Branch Disability Civil Rights Expert** and his testimony shall always be welcome as an amicus in any lawsuit or appeal on disability or constitutional law matters affecting disabled people in any way.

The above amendment is proposed by Virginia Attorney Andrew U. D. Straw. andrew@andrewstraw.com