**NEVADA GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**



**DRAFT Position on Ableism**

Ableism is the discrimination of and social prejudice against people with disabilities based on the belief that “typical” abilities are superior. At the center of the idea, ableism is the belief and assumption that people with disabilities need fixing and that there is a solution to their “problems”. Much like racism and sexism, ableism includes harmful stereotypes, misconceptions, misinformation, and generalization of people with disabilities and their abilities.

People with disabilities have been subject to the greatest violence and oppression of ableism. In order to eliminate ableism, a world must be built where all bodies and minds are respected, valued, and equal. Many movements for rights and justice do not include people with disabilities. Even the disability rights movement has been based on a competitive access model, in which people constantly prove their need for support.

**The Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) believes that people who have disabilities must be respected and valued for everything that makes them who they are. It is important to honor and embrace disability as part of a person’s identity that gives them power.**

**Policy Recommendations:**

* Remove any language that portrays individuals with disabilities as being less than, broken, unworthy, or is negative, harmful, oppressive, or discriminatory in nature.
* Systems shall be focused on ending beliefs and systems that favor people who do not have disabilities, discrimination and unfair treatment because of someone’s identity, and unjust treatment that gives some more control over their lives’ than others.
* Leaders and educators shall include people with disabilities.
* Efforts towards systems and social change shall ensure collective access to services and supports.
* Ensure a commitment to cross-movement solidarity that includes working together with other social change groups to make change and create a community that supports one another.
* Create welcoming environments where all people and their specific needs, abilities, and accommodations are met.
* Incorporate the Independent Living Model of “Nothing About Us Without Us” in all efforts.