AUCD Opposes the Nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court of the United States

The Government of the United States has three branches: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. The Judicial Branch is a system of courts that interprets our laws. Presidents (Executive Branch) have the power to nominate Judges – including Supreme Court Justices – and the Senate (Legislative Branch) has the power to confirm those appointments.
President Trump recently picked Judge Brett Kavanaugh to serve a lifetime appointment on our nation’s highest court, the Supreme Court of the United States. To be confirmed, over half of U.S. Senators must vote to support his nomination.

Like many other disability and civil rights groups, AUCD believes that Judge Kavanaugh should not be confirmed because his past work shows that he does not fully understand civil rights for people with disabilities and he does not support the right to health insurance. As Andrew Imparato, Executive Director of AUCD explains, “Judge Kavanaugh has shown that he is comfortable having the government make healthcare decisions for people with intellectual disabilities without asking them what they want, and comfortable taking healthcare away from millions of Americans. We need Justices on the Supreme Court who support our right to make decisions for ourselves and our right to healthcare, and we oppose Judge Kavanaugh because he has failed to protect these important rights in two key cases.”

Two cases in Judge Kavanaugh’s past show why we believe he should not be confirmed:

- In the 2007 ruling “Department of Education v. District of Columbia and Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Administration,” Judge Kavanaugh ruled that when a medical decision needed to be made, people with intellectual disabilities did not have to be asked about what they wanted. As Liz Weintraub, Senior Advocacy Specialist at AUCD explains, “Judge Kavanaugh seems to think people like me don’t deserve a say in our own healthcare, and that to me is dangerous, discriminatory, and shows he doesn’t really understand the idea of ‘nothing about us without us.’”

- Judge Kavanaugh’s dissent in “Seven-Sky v. Holder” shows his belief that the Affordable Care Act should not be a law. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is what stopped insurance companies from not covering people with pre-existing conditions and disabilities. As Andrew Imparato, Executive Director of AUCD explains, “If Judge Kavanaugh leads the Supreme Court to overturn the ACA, people with disabilities will lose access to health insurance and affordable medical care.”
AUCD urges individuals and organizations to learn about Judge Kavanaugh’s record on the DC Circuit and use this opportunity to educate your Senators about the importance of self-determination and access to healthcare for millions of Americans with disabilities and their families.

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The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) represents a diverse network of people with disabilities, families, educators, researchers, advocates and professionals. In partnership with people with disabilities, AUCD promotes inclusion, dignity, respect, equity, justice, health, and well-being across the lifespan in all communities. For more information, visit www.aucd.org or contact aucdinfo@aucd.org.

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