



November 9, 2022

Statement from the CCD Board of Directors on the Passing of Lois Curtis

The Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) Board joins others in the disability community in mourning the passing of Lois Curtis, a Black disabled advocate, civil rights leader, and artist. Curtis passed away in her home in Atlanta, Georgia on November 3rd.

Because of her disability and the lack of home and community-based services available to her, Lois Curtis was institutionalized as a child and sought legal assistance as a young adult to get out of the institution where she was trapped. That case became known as *Olmstead v. L.C.* (Lois Curtis) and is one of the most important disability rights cases of the past century. The decision held that people with disabilities have the right to live in their own homes and receive services outside of an institution, protections granted by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Curtis and her co-plaintiff, Elaine Wilson, were steadfast in their commitment to ending segregation for people with disabilities. Lois Curtis' courage and leadership dramatically raised expectations for our lives, and the lives of our family and friends. Lois Curtis taught us that we can dream of and demand to live outside of an institution; we can lead, express and be our full selves.

Curtis' life outside of the institution embodied that potential as she became an artist and continued to advocate for community living for the rest of her too-short life.

CCD will always remember her leadership and contributions. CCD commits to continuing Lois Curtis' legacy, to raising expectations and continuing the fight for the right to live full lives outside of all institutions, and to advocating for the services and supports needed to make this right possible. CCD extends our heartfelt condolences to Lois Curtis' family, friends and community.

We also wanted to be sure that everyone was aware of a Gofundme established for Lois Curtis' funeral expenses. Link: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/final-expenses-for-the-lovely-lois?qid=cfd24fec473c91ccecfe169f609765b> [Note that the goal has been met.]