



Alliance for the Betterment of
Citizens with Disabilities

Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies

ABCD Response to the President's Thanksgiving Post

We respectfully ask our President to lead us in our efforts to overcome the devaluation and discrimination against individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We are deeply concerned and saddened to learn that President Trump used the R-word to describe an elected official in his Thanksgiving holiday post.

Our choice of words matters. In this case, the use of the R-word has historically been employed to dehumanize, hurt, bully, mock and insult our community. Its regrettable use challenges the goal of the federal government and the Trump administration to promote inclusive language in IDD by replacing outdated and offensive terms with person first language.

The professionals who work at ABCD member agencies have devoted their careers to serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who often experience stigma and discrimination. We implore President Trump to use his influence, platform, and leadership to help us in our life-long effort to overcome the devaluation of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

November 28, 2025.