



DOJ's New Interpretation of Olmstead Threatens Community Integration for Disabled People and People Who Use Drugs

In the 1999 Supreme Court case, *Olmstead v. L.C.*, the court ruled that unjustified institutionalization of people with disabilities is unlawful discrimination under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), and that a mandate within the Act requires public entities to provide services in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of people with disabilities. Now, the Department of Justice is arguing that providing care in integrated settings was not established as a mandate by this case, a position which has many concerned that this is part of a broader approach by the current administration to make institutionalization of people with disabilities, the unhoused, and those who use drugs easier. [Read the full article.](#)



How Much Grief is Too Much?

Prolonged Grief Disorder (PGD) was added to the DSM-5-TR in 2022. A diagnosis of PGD is deemed medically appropriate for adults experiencing certain grief symptoms for longer than a year (and for children, longer than six months) in a way that can impair social functioning. A closer examination of grief and PGD is an important public health issue because death grief, like aging, is something that almost everyone will experience, and yet despite the negative health outcomes that can result when grief support is inadequate or nonexistent, it receives little to no attention.

Resources



Ensuring Access to School Nurses: Lessons From Maryland and Implications for States

School nurses are uniquely positioned to be the first line of defense for children with special health care needs in schools, yet no state, besides Delaware, requires all schools to employ a full-time nurse. As a result, most states, including Maryland, contain schools that lack one. This is problematic given the high percentage of students in the U.S. who require a school nurse to effectively manage chronic health conditions in school. This issue brief explores the problem of inadequate school nurse coverage and, using Maryland as an example, makes the case for mandatory staffing laws in the states.

Webinar

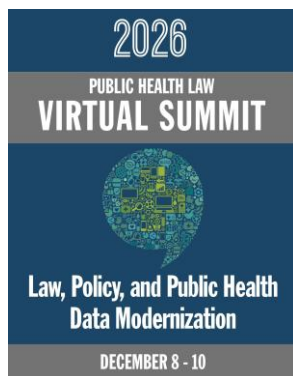


Public Health in Pursuit of Voting Rights for All

Thursday, August 27, 2026 | 12:30 – 2:00 pm CDT

Attend this webinar to hear from the Southern Poverty Law Center and Health & Democracy Partners about voting rights and public health. The Southern Poverty Law Center will unpack what the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Louisiana v. Callais* means for voting rights, the public's health, and public health. Speakers will discuss the connections between health and democracy—for individuals, communities, and the public health system—and identify ways for public health to join the voting rights movement to increase civic and voter participation.

Summit



2026 Public Health Law Virtual Summit: Law, Policy, and Public Health Data Modernization

December 8-10

Public health data modernization holds the power to transform public health and improve health for communities; and law and policy are indispensable components of this movement. Join us for a three-day virtual summit for insights and guidance on navigating an ever-shifting public health data legal landscape. Learn why law and policy are foundational to public health data modernization; hear how law and policy can support justice and community power in data and data technology, including AI and the role of law and policy in national frameworks for trusted data exchange. [Learn more and register.](#)

Announcements

Health & Democracy Peer Group Inaugural Meeting

August 26 | 1:00 - 2:00 pm CST

The Health & Democracy Peer Group (HDPG) is a new initiative led by the Network and Health & Democracy Partners, that is designed to bring together representatives of community-based organizations, health departments, and healthcare organizations interested in building trust in government and public health so they work for the people. The first meeting will focus on:

- Introductions
- Establishing group norms, practices, and preferences, including identifying topics members are most interested in exploring in future meetings
- Discussion of a peer example of integrating civic engagement into community health initiatives

If you currently work in a community-based organization, health department, or a healthcare organization with an interest in building trust in government and public health, [join the Health & Democracy Peer Group](#) and receive a registration link. There is no cost to join.

Worth Sharing

APHA 2026 Annual Meeting & Expo

November 1- 4, 2026, San Antonio, Texas

As the largest public health gathering of the year, APHA's Annual Meeting and Expo convenes

approximately 11,000 public health professionals and partners across a variety of disciplines. Advance registration discounts end September 15.

NALBOH 2026 Annual Conference

October 12-14, 2026, San Antonio, Texas

Boards of health play a vital role in protecting and improving community health. The National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) conference is designed to inspire and support both current and future board members by providing practical governance strategies, leadership development, and real-world examples that strengthen board effectiveness. Attendees will include new and experienced board members, community leaders interested in board service, and public health professionals who support boards of health. Sessions will aim to build governance capacity, foster meaningful board engagement, and provide actionable insights that participants can bring back to their communities.

Job Opportunity

Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health

The Washington State Board of Health is recruiting its next Executive Director. The Board provides statewide leadership on policies that protect and improve public health. It fulfills this mission by monitoring public health trends to understand and prevent disease, serving as a public forum for policy development, and adopting foundational public health rules that keep communities safe. The Board makes recommendations directly to the Governor, Legislature, and Secretary of Health, and in collaboration with the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, completes health impact reviews: evidence-based, non-partisan analyses of how proposed legislative or budgetary changes may affect health and equity. **The recruitment closes on 8/26/2026.**

Tell Us What You're Working On. **We're Ready to Help.**

**REQUEST
ASSISTANCE**

Network attorneys can provide consultation and guidance to:

- Identify the ways in which laws and policies may or may not impact a particular project or community; or the potential impact on different populations within a community.
- Provide examples of and compare public health laws or policy strategies from other jurisdictions.
- Analyze the legal authority to implement a policy or law, or reforms.
- Apply equity tools to laws and policies.

Thank you!

Your interest in the work of the Network is important. Together, we can advance law as a tool to improve public health. **Please forward the Network Report and encourage others to [join the Network!](#)**

The Network for Public Health Law provides information and technical assistance on issues related to public health. The legal information and assistance provided in this document does not constitute legal advice or legal representation. For legal advice, readers should consult a lawyer in their state.



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