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**National Down Syndrome Congress Commends Release of Proposed Rule on
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

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Roswell, GA – The National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) commends the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services’ (HHS) [proposed rule](#) to update regulations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Section 504 is one of the cornerstones of federal disability civil rights law by prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities in programs that receive federal financial assistance. Unfortunately, the regulations under Section 504 have not been updated in decades and now require new clarifications in order to prevent continued discrimination and inequitable treatment of people with disabilities in HHS funded programs.

“As both an advocate for people with Down syndrome and a mother of a 15-year-old with Down syndrome, I applaud HHS for proposing this update” said Kate Dougherty, President of the NDSC Board of Directors. “This rule puts us on the right course to better ensure my Elliot and others like him with Down syndrome will not face continued discrimination when accessing critical health care services and programs.”

We thank HHS for this important undertaking, and we look forward to reviewing the proposed rule in more depth and submitting comments. NDSC urges people with Down syndrome, their families, and the professionals who work with them to submit comments on the rule to ensure their perspective is considered as HHS works to finalize the rule.

Educate. Advocate. Empower. Inspire.

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The National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) is the country's oldest national organization for people with Down syndrome, their families, and the professionals who work with them. We provide information, advocacy and support concerning all aspects of life for individuals with Down syndrome, and work to create a national climate in which all people will recognize and embrace the value and dignity of people with Down syndrome.