

# CAPACITY TO LOVE

A Campaign of Spectrum Institute



*Capacity to Love* is a campaign to protect the social and sexual rights of adults with mental or developmental disabilities regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. This includes adults living alone or with a roommate, spouse or family members; those living under an order of conservatorship or guardianship; and those living in licensed settings such as nursing homes or group residences.

Love has many dimensions. Everyone, including adults with disabilities, has a capacity to love – whether through a family relationship, friendship, romance, sexual relationship, marriage, or having children. The right to express love through social or sexual interactions is protected by constitutional and statutory provisions of law. Restrictions on such rights, if supported by compelling circumstances, should be narrowly tailored.

*Capacity to Love* promotes the education of adults with mental or developmental disabilities about their social and sexual rights and responsibilities. It also promotes the education of guardians, conservators, and service providers of their legal duty to respect these rights – appropriately considering freedom of choice and freedom from abuse.

Tens of thousands of adults of all ages – from young adults with developmental disabilities to seniors with cognitive disabilities – will benefit from the *Capacity to Love* campaign.

We are seeking financial support for *Capacity to Love* from individuals, businesses, foundations, bar associations, and a social service organizations throughout the nation.

We are more powerful working together as a coalition: people who advocate for conservatorship and guardianship reform, people who advocate for disability rights, people who advocate for LGBT rights, and people who advocate for reproductive rights. Let's keep in mind: *We're all in this together.*



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