**Date:** **[Date of release]**

**Contact:** **[Name of person from your organization whom media can contact]**

**[Phone number of above person]**

**Disability Community Calls on [Congressperson] to Prioritize the Civil Rights of People with Disabilities by Cosponsoring Key Legislation**

**[Your organization name]** joins with [The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies](http://www.disasterstrategies.org) and other disability and aging leaders and community stakeholders in calling on the federal government to address the critical needs of disaster-impacted people with disabilities and older adults. The Disability Community urges Congress and the President to take immediate action to pass the Real Emergency Access for Aging and Disability Inclusion (REAADI) for Disasters Act. The REAADI for Disasters Act was introduced in both the Senate (S. 1049) and House of Representatives (H.R. 2371) on March 29, 2023.

Disasters affect the whole community, but the trauma intensifies for older adults and people with disabilities, who are 2-to-4 times more likely to die, be injured, and experience increased hardship during or after a disaster than people who don’t have disabilities. REAADI is key legislation that establishes new requirements to ensure emergency preparedness, disaster planning, response, recovery and community resilience to meet the diverse needs of people with disabilities and older adults, thus reducing death and injury and improving outcomes for the whole community.

Furthermore, REAADI prioritizes the civil rights of people with disabilities. It explicitly reinforces a 49-year-old requirement that all federal dollars spent during disasters must be compliant with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as well as all requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, including the Olmstead decision, are assured during disasters.

**[Your organization name]** calls upon Congress to pass REAADI.In a disaster,REAADI will be a lifeline to improve outcomes for people with disabilities and older adults, their families and their communities in disasters and emergencies. We are counting on the full support of our representatives.

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**[Description and mission of your organization]**