

The Perils of QALYs:

Addressing Discrimination Against People with Disabilities and Serious Chronic Conditions

WHEN: May 20, 2019
12-2pm
Buffet Lunch available starting at 11:30am

WHERE: Loyola Law School // Burns Lounge Room
919 Albany St.
Los Angeles, CA 90015

The Partnership to Improve Patient Care (PIPC) and The Coelho Center on Disability Law, Policy, and Innovation invites people with disabilities, patients, seniors, families, individuals experiencing disparities in care, providers and advocates to join our esteemed panel to learn about value assessments, their potential for discrimination, and related public policy threats to beware of at both the federal and state level.



THE COELHO CENTER
FOR DISABILITY LAW, POLICY & INNOVATION
LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL | LOS ANGELES

Presenters:

- **Tony Coelho**, *Chairman of the Partnership to Improve Patient Care and Founder of The Coelho Center*
- **Sara van Geertruyden**, *Executive Director of the Partnership to Improve Patient Care*
- **Ari Ne'eman**, *Disability advocate and PIPC consultant*
- **Colin Killick**, *Deputy Director, Massachusetts Disability Policy Consortium*

Background:

Metrics for measuring the “cost effectiveness” or value of treatments often relies on discriminatory methods, like the quality-adjusted-life-year (QALY), which values the lives of people with disabilities and serious chronic conditions as worth less than those of non-disabled people. QALYs are increasingly at the center of state and federal discussions about drug pricing, and advocates may be unfamiliar with how to engage with a complicated but important issue area.

Disability rights advocates have long fought against the QALY, achieving a prohibition against its use in Medicare within the Affordable Care Act. Previous administrations have ruled that using QALYs to allocate healthcare resources may constitute a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. But over the last few years, QALY-based proposals have become increasingly common, threatening access to lifesaving medications for people with disabilities and those with chronic illness.