



Every October, Residents' Rights Month is designated by Consumer Voice to honor residents living in all long-term care facilities and consumers receiving care in their homes and communities. The 2025 Residents' Rights Month theme is "Stand with Me."

Creative writing and artistic expression are meaningful and compelling ways to highlight the importance of residents' rights and how these rights can be carried out in all long-term care settings. The Resident's Voice Challenge encourages residents to submit essays, poems, artwork, drawings, or videos related to the theme.

How to Participate

This year's theme highlights the importance of solidarity and support for residents who stand up and advocate for their rights, as well as the value of encouraging the community to join residents in sharing their voices.

In celebration of **Consumer Voice's 50th Anniversary**, we are creating a coffee table book featuring residents' voices. We're seeking creative artwork (posters, paintings, drawings) or written entries (essays, poems) of 50 words or less. Individuals whose entries are selected for inclusion in the book will receive a complimentary copy of the book.

We also welcome audio and video recordings, long-form essays, or photos to be featured on our website, emails, and social media.

Use these questions to inspire you:

- 1.) What makes you feel empowered?
- 2.) Why is it important to stand up for your rights? For quality care?
- 3.) What contributes to your quality of life?
- 4.) What is needed for quality care to be provided in a long-term care facility?
- 5.) How can others (families, community members, etc) support bringing about quality care and quality of life in long-term care facilities?

Select entries will appear on our website, emails, and social media.

How to Submit

- Email submissions to info@theconsumervoice.org.
 - Include a mailing address with your submission for residents to receive certificates of participation.
 - Video and audio submission options:
 - [Upload your video to YouTube](#) and send us the link.
 - Email us the MP4 video file. If the file is too large to email, let us know at info@theconsumervoice.org, and we can arrange the transfer of large files.
 - Learn about more options for submitting your video entry [here](#).
 - Each person included in the video must sign and submit a [release form](#).
 - Artwork submissions: Take a high-resolution photo of your artwork and email the JPG or PNG file as an attachment to info@theconsumervoice.org. Do not send images in the body of the email, as the file is sometimes compressed.
 - Mailed submissions: Submissions may be mailed to Consumer Voice, 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036.
 - Mailed submissions must be received by the deadline, June 30th, and will not be returned.

Participation Criteria and Rules

- The deadline for submissions is **June 30, 2025**. **Note the early deadline in order to be considered for inclusion in the book.**
- **Submissions must be produced by a long-term care resident/consumer.** This can include residents of nursing homes, assisted living, independent

living, or individuals receiving long-term services in their homes or community. Relatives, friends, and facility staff may be involved in assisting residents/consumers with the challenge but may not submit their own entries without creative involvement of at least one long-term care resident/consumer.

- **Submissions must be original content created by a long-term care resident/consumer.** We cannot accept coloring pages or reproductions/reprintings of existing artwork, poems, or essays.
- **Any photo or video submission must be accompanied by a photo/video release form and signed by anyone appearing in the photo or video.** Find the release form here: <https://theconsumervoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/release-form-25.pdf>.
- Consumer Voice maintains the right to utilize entries in a variety of forums including the Residents' Rights Month packet, its websites, its products, and other mediums determined appropriate by Consumer Voice. Consumer Voice reserves the right to use submissions, including the photographs and videos and/or likenesses contained therein for promotional and publicity purposes, at any time, including, but not limited to, posting on the Consumer Voice/NORC websites and Consumer Voice/NORC social media pages, inclusion in promotional materials, products and other materials, and for display at the Consumer Voice Annual Conference.

Questions? Email info@theconsumervoice.org.