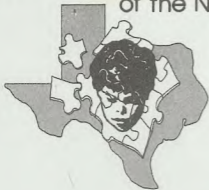


TEXAS SOCIETY FOR AUTISTIC CITIZENS

of the National Society for Autistic Children



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JOHN HILL

GOVERNOR

*file
handicapped
citizens*

JOHN HILL'S STATEMENT ON HIS CONCERNS FOR PERSONS WITH HANDICAPS

State government, under the active leadership of the Governor, should help to assure each individual the opportunity to live in comfort and with self respect, to learn and to achieve at a level appropriate for his or her capabilities, and to participate in whatever aspects of life he or she chooses or finds appropriate. The Governor of Texas should be attentive to the needs and interests of all persons, including those who have a handicapping condition. If elected Governor, I will work with parents, professionals, agencies, and individuals with disabilities to insure that all handicapped persons are afforded full rights due every citizen.

EDUCATION: I believe that education should be the primary concern of state government. Our responsibilities include services for those who need special education as well as those who learn and succeed through regular education programs. State and federal laws mandate that handicapped persons receive an appropriate, free education. As Governor, I will strive to increase awareness of these laws and to facilitate their implementation. I applaud the State Board of Education's recent decision requiring all teachers to be familiar with learning differences which impede education progress. This policy should permit children with certain handicaps to function successfully in regular classroom programs and should improve the processes of early identification and appropriate referral for those needing special programs. Most handicapped persons can live successfully in their home communities if they have access to proper services. Some persons may have needs best met in state residential facilities. A broad range of quality services should be available locally and in state facilities so that educational and training opportunities effectively address the needs of handicapped persons.

SERVICES FOR ADULTS: State government should be sensitive and responsive to the needs of persons with handicaps after they reach the age when public education traditionally stops. According to law, our educational system's responsibilities end when a persons reaches twenty-one years of age. But one's rights to participate in society, to employment, to housing, to safety, to protection from unjust discrimination, and to fair treatment in legal proceedings continue throughout his or her lifetime. We have state and federal laws that assure persons with handicapping conditions of many of these rights. As Governor, I will work with parents, consumers, professionals, and with state agencies to assist in the accurate and rapid implementation of existing laws.

QUALITY OF SERVICES: The quality as well as availability of services for those with handicaps should be given constant consideration. Inappropriate or ineffective programs are unfair to handicapped persons and are a waste of financial resources. Diagnostic, rehabilitation, and education programs should utilize the skills of well-trained teachers, rehabilitation specialists, and other health care professionals. Handicapped persons and their families should be assured that service providers are appropriately qualified. I believe that the quality of services is enhanced by the use of a multidisciplinary approach to service provisions whereby the expertise of all professionals is accessible to those who need a wide variety of special services.

The quality of services established or monitored by state boards and committees should be enhanced by the interest, knowledge, and understanding of committee and board members. Persons appointed to serve on committees and boards should be chosen on the basis of their interest and expertise in the areas under the jurisdiction of the body to which they are appointed. In making appointments as Governor, I will give primary consideration to the interest and expertise of appointees and to legal stipulations regarding committee and board composition.

COORDINATION OF EFFORTS: Texas presently has numerous agencies and facilities, both public and private, providing programs for persons with handicaps. Many organizations and individuals serve as advocates for individuals with a wide variety of handicapping conditions. I appreciate the genuine efforts of all whose intentions are to increase opportunities and improve the quality of life for this group of persons. We need to coordinate efforts of existing resources so that wasteful duplications are avoided and maximally effective programs are promoted. We should examine the effectiveness of programs and integrate the knowledge and efforts of all groups and individuals. We need to publicize the existence of all services so that people know where to turn for assistance. Through the Governor's office, I will encourage the coordination of efforts of public and private agencies and professionals addressing needs of the handicapped, the careful evaluation of program effectiveness, and the implementation of changes needed to improve services and opportunities.

OPEN COMMUNICATION: All persons should know that their views will be heard and their needs addressed by officials in Texas government. I assure you that as Governor, I will provide an opportunity within the Governor's office for handicapped persons and their advocates to voice concerns, to express needs, and to suggest procedures for improving services to individuals with handicaps. I will seek input from those with handicaps and from service providers. I will encourage state agencies, boards, and committees to listen to consumers. I will work with individuals and with groups to resolve problems and to establish improved programs and procedures to serve Texans who have any type of handicapping condition.

I am genuinely concerned for persons with handicaps, and I will be accessible and responsive to those who share this concern. The needs of persons with each handicapping condition will be given equal consideration. I am confident that with input and guidance from qualified service providers and from consumers of services coupled with active leadership in the Governor's office, our aspirations for quality services and a full range of opportunities for handicapped persons can become a reality.

JOHN HILL

GOVERNOR

Dear Friends of Handicapped Texans:

We urge you to vote for John Hill for Governor of Texas because Hill is actively concerned for persons with handicapping conditions. Hill has demonstrated that he will work to improve conditions and opportunities for those with handicaps.

- Hill sponsored a statewide workshop through the Attorney General's office on rights of mentally retarded persons.
- Hill, as Attorney General, ruled that state law requires the provision of educational opportunities for all handicapped persons, even before this was required by federal law.
- Hill assisted in drafting the Mentally Retarded Persons Act and testified before the state legislature in favor of this bill.
- Hill initiated and participated in regional workshops sponsored by the Attorney General's office to publicize and explain current laws pertaining to rights of handicapped persons.
- Hill has solicited input from handicapped citizens and their advocates and has utilized their experience and expertise in improving opportunities for handicapped children and adults.
- Hill has worked to reform laws related to alcohol and drug abuse.
- Hill has employed persons with a variety of handicapping conditions in responsible positions within the Attorney General's office.
- Hill served as State Chairman of the Muscular Dystrophy Telethon.
- Hill is a former United Way board member.

During his six years in office, the present Governor has not responded to needs of handicapped children and adults. Dolph Briscoe vetoed several pieces of legislation that would have improved opportunities and services for handicapped citizens. The statements accompanying the vetoes indicated his lack of awareness of conditions adversely affecting handicapped persons and his misinterpretation of the content of the bills. The Governor has ignored repeated efforts by individuals and parent and professional groups to discuss with him or his staff proposed legislation and state policies affecting handicapped Texans. He has not followed through on promises to assist in improving programs and opportunities for handicapped persons.

John Hill has shown that he shares our concerns for handicapped persons and our commitments to provide quality services and appropriate opportunities for persons with disabilities. Hill has stated that as Governor, he will continue working with and for Texans who have handicapping conditions.

VOTE FOR JOHN HILL FOR GOVERNOR -- HE CARES!

Sincerely,
Steering Committee
Advocates for Handicapped Citizens
in Support of John Hill for Governor

Patricia Cole
Patricia Cole

Charles Eskridge, Jr.
Charles Eskridge, Jr.

James E. Payne
James E. Payne

Elaine Roberts
Elaine Roberts

Mary Lovey Wood
Mary Lovey Wood