



Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

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IMPORTANT DELEGATE INFORMATION ENCLOSED!

October 31, 1995

Dear CTD Members and Voting Delegates:

Enclosed you will find the following:

- ✓ Proposed Slate of CTD Board Candidates Recommended by the CTD Nominations Committee
- ✓ Biographies For CTD Board Candidates
- ✓ Proposed Resolutions to be Considered, Debated, Adopted or Rejected by Delegates

Please see that your voting delegate reviews the resolutions prior to the Delegate Assembly to determine their consistency with your organization's positions. The Delegate Assembly will be held November 17-19, 1995, at the Bayfront Marriott in Corpus Christi. Emergency resolutions will be accepted from 6:30 - 7:00 on Friday, November 17. Emergency resolutions must be submitted on the standard resolution form in proper format. These resolutions will only be considered if accepted by the Resolutions Committee and determined to be an emergency. In addition, those wishing to submit emergency resolutions must have enough copies for all the delegates, including accessible formats: (large print, Braille, tape, disc). Emergency resolutions will be considered last.

Further, please carefully review the slate of board candidates. Floor nominations for the CTD Board can be made on Saturday, November 18, 1995 from 10:00 A.M. to 10:45 A.M..

We look forward to seeing you all this year in Corpus Christi, as we *Join the Voyage to Equal Access and Opportunity*, the theme for this year's Delegate Assembly. Call us at 800-998-3363 if you need to know how many copies of emergency resolutions you will need to bring or if you need any further information.

FOR A BARRIER FREE SOCIETY,

Redge Westbrook, CTD President

1995 - 1996
CTD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nomination Slate & Ballot

POSITION	NAME	CITY	ETHNICITY	DISABILITY
President	Mark Hamman	Corpus Christi	White	Paraplegia
Vice President	Redge Westbrook	El Paso	White	Blind
Secretary	Dolores Salazar	El Paso	Hispanic	Quadriplegia/ Cerebral Palsy
Treasurer	Wayne L. Leavitt	Carrollton	White	Paraplegia
At-Large through 1996	Angel Ramos	Nacogdoches	Hispanic	Deaf
At-Large through 1996	Richard Villa	Bedford	Hispanic	Blind
At-Large through 1996	Joe Jackson	Dallas	Black	Paraplegia
At-Large through 1997	Christine Pacetti	San Antonio	White	Polio
At-Large through 1997	Victor Ali	Mission	Puerto Rican	C6-7 Quadriplegia
At-Large through 1997	Bruce James	Beaumont	White	Cerebral Palsy

1995 CTD BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SLATE

Biographical Data

PRESIDENT

Mark Hamman
White - Corpus Christi - CTD Treasurer

Mark is a graduate of the University of Texas - Arlington with a Bachelor of Arts in Radio/Television Communications. He is 30-years old and lives in Corpus Christi. Mark has extensive experience in the disability rights movement. He currently serves on the advisory boards of Columbia/HCA Home Health and Concepts of Care Home Health. Having served as the Treasurer for the CTD Board of Directors this past year, Mark is now a candidate for CTD President. He believes his experience as President of Maximum Mobility, a durable medical company gives him the necessary qualifications for this position.

VICE PRESIDENT

Redge Westbrook
White - El Paso - Texas Legal Aid Services

Redge who graduated from University of Texas, Austin is an Attorney at law and works for the El Paso Texas Legal Aid Services. A former board member 1990 to 1993, Redge currently serves on the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities, Chairs the CTD Legislative Committee, and sits on the Board of Vaughn House, a residential facility for multi-disabled persons who are deaf. Redge's vision for the CTD Board is to meet the goals of the strategic plan which was developed and approved by the CTD Membership.

SECRETARY

Dolores Salazar
Hispanic - El Paso - Grupo DIO

Dolores is a graduate of the University of Texas - El Paso with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. She is 37 years old and resides in El Paso. Dolores currently is the CTD Secretary and has served as President and Treasurer for CTD member organization Dignidad, Igualdad, y Oportunidad (DIO). She also serves on the Board of Disabled Resource Environment (DARE). Both groups are local advocacy organizations for people with disabilities. Dolores wants to be the secretary for the CTD Board because she wants to continue advocacy for improving conditions for all people with disabilities.

TREASURER

Wayne L. Leavitt
White - Carrollton - Variety Wheelchair Arts & Sports Association

Wayne currently works in marketing and sales for Variety Wheelchair Arts & Sports Association, a medical equipment company. Wayne's vision for CTD is to be the voice, eyes,

ears and example for all disabled people. His reason for serving as a member of the board is to better the lives of people with disabilities. Wayne feels that his experience as a financial manager and fund raiser, coupled with his knowledge of state and federal programs qualify him for this position on the board.

AT-LARGE THROUGH 1996

Richard Villa

Hispanic - Bedford - American Council of the Blind of Texas

Richard Villa is the current President of the American Council of the Blind of Texas, and board member of the American Council of the Blind, National. He was a founder of the American Council of the Blind of Dallas. He has been involved in advocacy and service for over twenty years. Richard believes cross-disability effort is essential. He has been a computer programmer and consultant for 25 years and is especially interested and concerned with the information superhighway being accessible to people with disabilities. He believes this is one current issue that the cross-disability community organize around immediately.

AT- LARGE THROUGH 1997

Christine Pacetti

White - San Antonio - active in Advocacy Committee, San Antonio Area Disabled Advocates

Christine Pacetti moved to the United States from England 16 years ago. Christine has been an "activist" for the past 16 years. During that time she married, had two children, and served as the first President of the San Antonio Citizens Concerned about Handicapism (SACCH) which later grew into the San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS). She earned her MSW in 1993 and is currently employed as Director of Social Services at a home health care agency. Her long-term goal is to make the San Antonio Riverwalk accessible.

AT-LARGE THROUGH 1996

Angel Ramos

Hispanic - Nacogdoches - Texas Deaf Caucus

Angel is an energetic person from Rowlett, Texas who brings with him extensive involvement in the disability rights movement as a possible candidate for the CTD Board. He is an active member of the Texas Deaf Caucus, and has received training from the Disability Rights Education and Defense fund on ADA.

Angel's vision for CTD is two-fold: first, to develop leadership skills among younger people with disabilities and among those who are already active advocates; the second is to see all groups of people with disabilities working together toward a common goal, and not against each other. Throughout history, success has been accomplished by different groups working together, whether it was the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, or the Deaf President Now movement at Gallaudet University. To break down common barriers, we all need to work together, but to work together, we must know HOW to work with others who have differences in opinions and philosophies- by doing so, the barriers will slowly be just a memory.

AT-LARGE THROUGH 1997

Victor Ali

Puerto Rican - Mission - Texas Paralyzed Veterans Association and the Valley Association for Independent Living

Victor Ali is 49 years old and lives in Mission. He has a degree from U.T. Pan American with BA in Rehabilitative Services. While a student, he was President of the Rehabilitation Club at the University, and educated the community about disability issues on campus and how to remedy problems. He successfully fund-raised for the organization and its efforts to bring about access in the community.

His vision for CTD is to further educate Texans about the needs of access of public and private facilities for Texans with disabilities so that they can function more independently within their community. Victor would like to see CTD be the voice for Texans with Disabilities by creating more access for persons with disabilities to participate in the Political process, (i.e. have disabled people run for political office).

AT-LARGE THROUGH 1996

Joe Jackson

Black - Dallas - Paralyzed Veterans Association - Lone Star Chapter

Joe Jackson is a 43-year-old native Texan. He joined the Paralyzed Veterans Association in 1988 and has become increasingly active over time. He is currently a member of the CTD Board of Directors and serves as the advocacy director of the Lone Star Chapter. Joe is enthusiastic, eager to learn and become involved. His primary area of interest is advocacy and enacting change.

AT-LARGE THROUGH 1997

Bruce M. James

White - Beaumont - SETLIFE, INC. (Southeast Texas ILC)

Bruce James, 46, and resides in Beaumont. He holds a B.B.A. in Accounting, a B.S. in Computer Science and an M.B.A. in Management. Bruce currently serves as President for SETLIFE, Inc. and also for the Texas Disabled Sports Association, Inc. His vision for CTD is to further its goals in South East Texas. He feels that his experience in business management qualifies him for a position on the CTD board of directors.

COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES

1995 DELEGATE RESOLUTION

BENEFITS FOR PERSONAL ASSISTANTS

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Benefits for Personal Assistants

PERSON OR ORGANIZATION SUBMITTING RESOLUTION: CTD Personal Assistance Services Task Force

WHEREAS: There are currently thousands of personal assistants employed by home health agencies or other entities who contract with the agencies such as the Texas Department of Human Services, Texas Rehabilitation Commission, and the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to provide persons with disabilities assistance with basic living activities such as eating, dressing, bathing, and toileting; and

WHEREAS: These personal assistance services (PAS) are considered invaluable to the person with a disability; and

WHEREAS: A 1992 study conducted by Ilene Gray and Associates for the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities' Personal Attendant Services Task Force found that the primary obstacle to recruiting and retaining dependable, quality attendants is low wages, few benefits, and no career ladder;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That CTD advocate that:

- 1) The Texas 74th Legislature direct the Texas Department of Human Services and other health and human service agencies who provide personal assistance services to develop an appropriate and definitive percentage of every unit rate contract be expended on wages and benefits for direct services staff (personal assistants).
- 2) Contractors develop an array of benefits, e.g. bonuses, health insurance, sick leave, raises and vacation.
- 3) Wages for personal assistants be commensurate to experience and/or training of the personal assistant and the skill level required by the consumer; and
- 4) Bonuses be paid to assistants for longevity and outstanding performance.

RESOLUTION ON FUNDING FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Funding for Centers for Independent Living

PERSON OR ORGANIZATION SUBMITTING RESOLUTION: Directors Association of Texas Centers for Independent Living (DATCIL)

Address: c/o DARE
8929 Viscount, Suite 101
El Paso, Texas 79925 Phone: 915 591-0800

WHEREAS: Centers for Independent Living are controlled by persons with disabilities and represent persons with all types of disabilities, and

WHEREAS: Centers for Independent Living have effectively provided independent living services for Texans with disabilities for more than 15 years, and

WHEREAS: Centers for Independent Living have successfully used the consumer-controlled, peer support/role model approach in providing independent living skills, advocacy and other services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities will support continued state funding of the Texas Centers for Independent Living and the administration of any designated independent living funds by the centers.

COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES

1995 DELEGATE RESOLUTION

MEDICAID BLOCK GRANTS

SUBMITTED BY: Coalition of Texans with Disabilities Public Policy Committee

WHEREAS: Medicaid serves as the only source of health care and long-term services for many Americans, including low-income people with disabilities and older citizens; and

WHEREAS: Congress plans to reform Medicaid by removing "entitlements" (meaning if you qualify, you receive services) to services and converting it into a system of block grants to the states; and

WHEREAS: These proposals also include reductions of \$182 billion in the Medicaid program, and would likely result in restricted eligibility with people receiving less services or no services at all; and

WHEREAS: The Medicaid block grant proposals under consideration remove federal protections such as a broad guidelines on the definition of disability and requirements that ensure:
1) comparable services available statewide; 2) a choice of providers, and 3) coverage of at least the same services now offered; and

WHEREAS: Block grants in the area of long-term services have a troublesome history in Texas. One program called Family Care that provides personal assistance services under federal Title XX block grant funds has long waiting lists and is currently on "frozen" status at the Texas Department of Human Services due to their restricted budget;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That CTD oppose efforts to convert Medicaid into a block grant unless: 1) appropriate funding is designated to meet the need, 2) access to Medicaid health and long-term services are guaranteed to those eligible, 3) a federal definition of disability emphasizing functional needs, not medical label is maintained, and 4) broad federal guidelines are kept in place to ensure statewide availability, comparability, choice of providers, and coverage of at least the same services currently being offered; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the CTD Personal Assistance Services Task Force establish a committee to develop a position for consideration by CTD delegates at the next assembly on the definition of disability as it would relate to accessing long-term services.

COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES

1995 DELEGATE RESOLUTION

ACCESS TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES

SUBMITTED BY: Richard Villa, Chair and the CTD Telecommunications Access Committee

WHEREAS: Access to information and technology is of great importance to the 48 million Americans who have some kind of disability, allowing them to more fully participate in our society, and

WHEREAS: Lack of access to telecommunications is already creating a technology underclass who will be functionally disabled in the information explosion, and

WHEREAS: The State of Texas has passed legislation stating that it will be the policy of the State of Texas to ensure that high quality telecommunications services are available, accessible, and usable by individuals with disabilities, unless making the services available, accessible, or usable would result in an undue burden, including unreasonable cost or technical feasibility, or would have an adverse competitive effect, and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Congress is currently considering telecommunications legislation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities and its members will advocate for the State of Texas to implement regulations that ensure the mandates of the bill are implemented, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities and its members will advocate for the U.S. Congress to pass legislation and implement regulations that will ensure that high quality telecommunications services are available, accessible, and usable by people with disabilities who have telecommunication services and technology.

Please note: A background document related to this resolution is attached. It was prepared by Richard Villa, Chair of the CTD Telecommunications Committee, President of the American Council of the Blind of Texas and a computer programmer consultant.

BACKGROUND: TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS ISSUES

Current data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services indicate that there are 48 million persons who have some kind of disability in the United States. Access to information and technology is of great importance to persons with disabilities, allowing them to more fully participate in our society. Alternatively, lack of such access will create a technology underclass who will be functionally disabled in the information explosion.

The problems posed by this new technology are as varied as the disabilities in the population. For a person who must use a wheelchair on a day to day basis, the height of automated teller machines is very important. If this same individual has limited use of his or her hands, placement of the control keypad is of additional concern. In addition, these individuals are not able to use many software applications which require multiple key commands to perform various functions, and operation of pointing devices (mice) can also be difficult if not impossible. Audible tones, buzzers, and verbal instructions are of little or no use for persons who have a hearing impairment. The use of lights and visual displays is most useful for these persons. A person who is unable to read and comprehend the instructions on a screen, needs to have alternate means of receiving user instructions. For these individuals graphical displays may be most useful.

Graphical User Interface (GUI) based technology coupled with an accelerated and pervasive trend for presenting/displaying information in a highly visual format has hampered access to data for blind people. Of major concern are both personal work stations and public access information systems. Specific concerns for access include, but are not limited to the following:

- *Personal computers and computer networks running on GUI access software;
- *Touch keys and touch screens on kitchen appliances, video recorders, small and large electronic appliances; and
- *Automatic teller machines, service and information kiosks, building directories

National guidelines or standards to address information access for persons with disabilities are needed. Ultimately, accessibility must become an integral part of all consumer product designs.

GUI based products are designed and developed around a visual model, for which some blind people lack the necessary frame of reference. Therefore, non-visual alternatives must be developed for recognizing, selecting and pointing to objects on the screen, describing icons, and conveying information portrayed by spatial relationships among various objects. Current screen reader access programs for GUI-based computers are still in the early stages of development and are not yet able to provide comparable performance or ease of use. As a result, employment opportunities are being stymied and reduced for blind and visually impaired people.

Although there are a variety of approaches being tested by software developers, consumer groups, governmental agencies, and others, there is a striking lack of coordination between these efforts. Up-to-date reporting on the status of these efforts is difficult to obtain. Five major problems which must be resolved before blind computer users will have full access to GUIs include:

1. Navigating around the screen
2. Identifying objects on the screen
3. Translating information represented by pictures and graphs
4. Presenting information in a timely and meaningful manner
5. Coping with the variety of screen formats

Accordingly, congress and state legislators must work toward the establishment of statutory guidelines requiring developers and providers of software and hardware for telecommunication equipment and network services to develop standards for information exchange and presentation which will allow access by all persons. Developers of these products should be required to provide an interface specially designed to allow any developer of access technology easy access to any and all user information and an alternate means of performing all functions available to the non disabled user. All developers of information systems would then be required to conform to these standards in the development of enhancement of existing products.

In addition, alternate methods of operation of these software and hardware products must be developed to allow persons who are not able to use the standard pointing devices (mice) or touch keypads to operate these products independently.

Representatives of a major software developer have stated that it is the market place that determines what features are incorporated into their products. Market forces and expanding technological capabilities should not be relied upon to ensure the design and manufacture of products and services which are fully accessible without strict mandates.

The equipment and networks which will become the information infrastructure must offer the potential for alternative operator access and output/feedback of information in multiple and synonymous modes including audio, visual, and tactile; along with the choice of alternate operating modes including speech, keypads, point and click mechanisms, standardized interfaces and other activation mechanisms usable by people with various disabilities.

COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES

1995 DELEGATE RESOLUTION

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

SUBMITTED BY: Coalition of Texans with Disabilities Public Policy Committee

WHEREAS: The Texas workforce commission is mandated to assist all unemployed Texans in their preparation and search for work, and

WHEREAS: The specialized agencies which assist disabled Texans in the vocational rehabilitation process do not supply adequate resources to assist all Texans with disabilities

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: All programs of the Texas workforce can be made accessible to persons with disabilities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: CTD advocates for inclusion of people with disabilities in every program and service provided by the Texas Workforce Commission.

COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES

1995 DELEGATE RESOLUTION

SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

SUBMITTED BY: Coalition of Texans with Disabilities Public Policy Committee.

WHEREAS: People with disabilities deserve the opportunity to work for competitive wages, meaning minimum wage or better, and

WHEREAS: Sheltered workshops are allowed by law to pay less than minimum wage, and use Texans with disabilities as human chattel in segregated, institutional environments,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities and its members advocate that statutory language that allows for people with disabilities to be paid less than minimum wage be eliminated and that the State of Texas affirm that people with disabilities in the workplace in Texas can be paid no less than minimum wage or above; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: That Coalition of Texans with Disabilities and its members advocate that sheltered employment that pays less than minimum wage be eliminated and that the State of Texas assure that all Texans with disabilities have the opportunity and support necessary to work in individualized, competitive employment in the community and have choices about their work and careers.

COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES

1995 DELEGATE RESOLUTION

INTEGRATED ACCESS TO SERVICE DELIVERY

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Integrated Access to Service Delivery

SUBMITTED BY: CTD Personal Assistance Services Task Force and CTD Public Policy Committee

WHEREAS: The current system for providing services to people with disabilities frequently requires an individual to access services from a variety of different state agencies; and each state agency requires the individual to go through its own unique eligibility process; and

WHEREAS: This fragmented system of service delivery can pose numerous frustrations and difficulty in accessing services; and

WHEREAS: Senate Bill 1675, passed in the 74th Legislature and signed into law by the Governor on June 16, 1995, allows the commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to "1) simplify agency procedures; 2) automate agency procedures; 3) coordinate services planning and management tasks between and among health and human services agencies; 4) reallocate staff resources; 5) adopt rules; 6) amend, waive or repeal existing rules; and 7) take other necessary actions tointegrate and streamline service delivery and facilitate access to services," and,

WHEREAS: Senate Bill 1675 also requires the Health and Human Services Commission to submit by Sept. 1, 1996 a plan for an "integrated eligibility determination and service delivery system for health and human services at the local regional levels"; and

WHEREAS: These proposals could have a substantial impact on accessing services; and

WHEREAS: The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, a national cross-disability coalition, advocates a state "single point of entry" for personal assistance service delivery, and

WHEREAS: At a March 1994 Four-State Roundtable on Personal Assistance Services, sponsored by the CTD Personal Assistance Services Task Force, no consensus could be reached that a single point of entry should be established for service delivery;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT: CTD advocate for the following definition and guidelines related to "integrated access:"

CTD defines "integrated access" as more than one accessible (program and physical) sites or agencies for entry into the service delivery system, where an individual can be assessed for services appropriate to that agency, told what else they might qualify for in other agencies and

appropriately referred to another agency that can meet their needs. CTD recognizes that the "point of entry" into the service delivery system varies among people with disabilities, and that there are a variety of ways to enter the service delivery system.

Guidelines

- 1) Eligibility information provided for one service should be utilized for another via a computerized network and eligibility assessment tool linking all health and human services agencies so as to eliminate duplication.
- 2) A user-friendly service delivery system that ensures that services are available to individuals when and where they need them should be the goal of any attempts to develop "integrated access."
- 2) Eligibility processes must be simplified so as to streamline service delivery in a manner that does not impede on an individual's ability to access specialists trained to assist in assessing needs of certain disability groups.
- 3) People with disabilities must be included in the Health and Human Services Commission and other health and human service agencies' attempts to plan, deliver and evaluate programs and services in an "integrated service delivery system."
- 4) Co-location (where different health and human service agencies are housed in a single location) should be pursued as a means to prevent individuals from traveling to many locations to access services from a variety of agencies.
- 5) Intake workers must be trained to know about service options across various health and human service agencies and how to run computer assessment programs. However, it should not be assumed that computer programs can replace a trained intake worker.
- 6) An individual should have a choice of a single "service coordinator," and that coordinator must coordinate with the individual. Individual-based service plans, developed in conjunction with the service providers, and agreed upon by the individual, and/or by the family (where appropriate) must be in place.
- 7) Disability service agencies must be available by a toll-free number.
- 8) Services must maintain a consumer's confidentiality.
- 9) Outcome measures and quality must be defined by consumers. Input on how to monitor quality and measurable outcomes must be sought from consumers.

NOTE: This resolution will be submitted to PAS Task Force participants prior to the Delegate Assembly for possible edits. If changes are recommended, a substitute resolution will be presented to Delegates at the Delegate Assembly. This resolution has been reviewed and accepted by the PAS Task Force Chair and CTD Public Policy Committee. It is being mailed prior to acceptance by the PAS Task Force to meet CTD By-Law Requirements on resolutions.

COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES

1995 DELEGATE RESOLUTION

MOVING FROM INSTITUTIONS TO COMMUNITY SERVICES: DE-INSTITUTIONALIZATION

PERSON OR ORGANIZATION SUBMITTING RESOLUTION: CTD Personal Assistance Services Task Force

WHEREAS: In 1991, the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities' Personal Assistance Services Task Force successfully advocated for the passage of Texas Senate Resolution 887, adopting the CTD PAS Task Force guiding principles stating "That it is the position of the state of Texas that persons with disabilities of all ages can live in the community when provided appropriate services and support; and that services and supports should...

- 1) Be based on individual functional need;
- 2) Be available to people with disabilities, regardless of age, type of disability, sex, race, religion, political affiliation or sexual preference;
- 3) Serve persons with disabilities and provide support to their families at home, work, in the community, and in school;
- 4) Offer persons with disabilities and their families maximum opportunities for choice and control of attendant services {*personal assistance services*};
- 5) Recognize and allow for changing needs and circumstances over time of individuals with disabilities;
- 6) Promote independence;
- 7) Develop incentives that create and maintain self-reliance and productivity;
- 8) Include options for cost-sharing;
- 9) Be available throughout the state, in both urban and rural settings;
- 10) Provide for training of persons with disabilities on attendant recruitment, direction, and management on an optional basis;
- 11) Provide for basic training of attendants {*personal assistants*}, and

WHEREAS: Texas Senate Resolution 886 recognized the overwhelming preference of people with disabilities to live in their own homes, rather than in institutional settings, with independence, dignity, choice, and control over their lives; and

WHEREAS: Both the Texas Department of Human Services and the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation have agency positions supporting the development of community services, but there is no consistent policy across all health and human service state agencies; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Congress and federal agencies do not currently have any policy affirming community-based alternatives over institutions or encouraging the redirection of dollars from institutions to community services;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That CTD advocate that the U.S. Congress and the Texas State Legislature:

- 1) Increase the number of people receiving services in the community and reduce the institutional population by redirecting funds from institutions to community options; and
- 2) Pass legislation establishing a "Community Impact Statement" to guide all policy and funding decisions of the U.S. Congress, the Texas Legislature and all health and human service agencies, with the goal of ensuring consistent policies across agencies on the development of community options that promote independence and full participation in life.

The "Community Impact Legislation" must require reporting from state and federal health and human service agencies outlining their progress in decreasing their institutional populations, and steps taken to build community options. This agency report should be submitted with the agency's Legislative Appropriations Request in order to compare progress from one funding cycle to the next.

COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES

1995 DELEGATE RESOLUTION

PROPOSED U.S. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET CUTS TO MEDICAID, MEDICARE, AND HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

PERSON OR ORGANIZATION SUBMITTING RESOLUTION: CTD Public Policy Committee

WHEREAS: Medicaid and Medicare represent for many individuals the only source of health care and long-term services; and

WHEREAS: Home and community-based long-term personal assistance services have been proven to not only be the preferred choice of consumers, but approximately one-third the cost of institutions; and

WHEREAS: Many low income individuals rely on health and human services assistance in areas such as food, housing, job training, child care and much more; and

WHEREAS: Congress is currently planning to cut Medicare by \$270 billion and Medicaid by \$182 billion over seven years, and reduce drastically other health and human services funding such as welfare and housing spending; and

WHEREAS: Such draconian cuts to Medicaid, Medicare and other health and human services will devastate the existing "service safety net" for impoverished people with disabilities of all ages and older Americans;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That CTD advocate that Congress address deficit reduction by examining means to eliminate fraud and abuse, reduce profiteering, and non-essential institutional spending; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That CTD continue to advocate for the increase of community-based service options and the shift of dollars from institutions to community-based services.