

A CLASH OF EGOS. A BATTLE OF IDEOLOGIES.

A REPORT ON SESSION



83RD TEXAS LEGISLATIVE REPORT 2013
COALITION OF TEXAS WITH DISABILITIES



A REPORT ON SESSION

Dueling factions. Unlikely alliances. Plot twists and melodrama.
It sounds like the high fantasy epic *A Game of Thrones*,
but we're talking about the 83rd Texas Legislature.

Amid the skirmishes and scandals, the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD) worked very hard for the disability community this session. Early mornings, late nights, weekends, and holidays, we fought on multiple fronts for solid public policy- storming the Capitol with our partners for rallies, negotiating behind the scenes with key legislators, drafting bill language, calling on our members to take action, and much more. We raised our banners for our top priorities of community services, independent living, inclusion, and access, and we came to the table on many other issues. Through strategic advocacy efforts and strong partnerships (not to mention some unusual allies), CTD made a difference this session for Texans with disabilities.

Countless sagas emerge from each legislative session. Would that we could tell them all, but the report that follows contains only the tale of CTD and the 83rd Legislature.

HOUSE CTD

"For a Barrier Free Society"

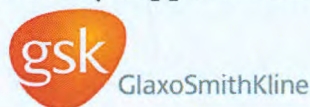


If you visited the Capitol this session or kept up with us on Facebook, you undoubtedly saw the faces of our **advocacy team**, Executive Director Dennis Borel, Advocacy Director Chase Bearden, and Spring Policy Intern Sydney Paschall. This group put untold hours into analyzing bills before the session was called to order, making visits, preparing and delivering testimony, organizing self-advocates, and providing recommendations and language for a number of bills.

Dennis, Chase, and Sydney didn't do it alone, though. The **communications team** of Laura Perna, Susie Angel, and William Greer worked tirelessly to produce CTD's newsletter, report on advocacy activities, and maintain our website and social media pages throughout the session. Revenue generated by CTD's **Consumer Directed Services (CDS) division** supports the advocacy work we do throughout the year. Chief Operations Officer Denise Curtice and CDS Coordinators Bryson Smith, Amie Lynne, Dyanna Matthews, and Hup Holland deserve recognition for not simply maintaining, but improving our CDS operation during the intense days of the legislature.

CTD's members and board, our partners, and the self-advocates we worked with also played a huge part in our advocacy wins this session.

Finally, this document was made possible by support from our **report sponsor**,



Cover: 3,000 at the State Capitol on March 5 for the Texas Medicaid Matters March and Rally.

OUR VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our policy work is informed by the same **values** that CTD holds as an organization, including:

- A commitment to organizational integrity and personal responsibility
- A commitment to leadership
- The recognition that progress will come from long term, sustainable change, not quick fixes

Our policy work is guided by our **mission**. We are committed to policy that promotes:

- Community living, not costly institutional entrapment
- Independent living, including reasonable support for community attendants
- Inclusion in schooling, work, and recreation
- Access in public and virtual spaces

We pursue our policy priorities through **effective advocacy strategies**:

- We fight to be at the table when policymakers are crafting legislation that affects the disability community, even if it means joining discussions we don't necessarily like.
- We believe that disability issues are not niche issues! That's why we work in a broad spectrum of policy areas.
- We are wary of hard line stances. Compromise is part of the process of change, even if it means making concessions.
- Narcotics Anonymous once said, "Insanity is repeating the same mistakes and expecting different results." We believe the same applies to advocacy tactics. That's why we strive to remain open to change in our methods and make a point to pursue new ideas and different ways of doing things.
- We recognize the importance of working with proven allies, but we also pursue partnerships with new groups, even those we sometimes disagree with.
- We prioritize solution-based policy over self-interest and personal politics.



Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
316 W. 12th St., Ste. 405, Austin, TX 78701

PH: (512) 478-3366 F: (512) 478-3370

www.TXDisabilities.org



CTD is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with Federal Tax ID #74-2071160. CTD is a social and economic impact organization benefitting Texans with all disabilities of all ages. CTD is a membership organization controlled by people with disabilities.

TOP PRIORITIES: BILLS IN WHICH CTD TOOK A PROMINENT POSITION

As the legislature played its own *Game of Thrones* in the Texas State Capitol, CTD took a **leading role** in our top three policy issue areas. First, at our annual convention last fall, CTD members identified **funding for disability services** within the State Budget, **Senate Bill (SB) 1**, as a top priority. As session approached, two other bills emerged as major items: **SB 303**, on **advanced directives** and end-of-life rights and **SB 7**, a **redesign of the long-term services and supports system**. All three bills were broad in scope, embroiled many groups and interests, and demanded large commitments of time and effort from CTD and our partners. Each required consistent advocacy, starting before the Legislature convened, and continuing until the last week in May.

SB ONE: STATE BUDGET



1. Community Attendant Wages

In order to have a positive impact on the state budget, CTD chooses to target specific areas, rather than tangle with this mountainous piece of legislation in its entirety. It bears mentioning that CTD recognized the need for increased funding for services for people with **psychiatric disabilities**. In the wake of the Newtown shootings, several leading elected officials prioritized more money for mental health. With this strong support in place, CTD chose to focus on the following budget areas. Our #1 budget priority in 2013 was to **increase the wage rates for community attendants**. Currently, our community care programs are constructed on a foundation of the lowest paid workers in the State. 150,000 Texans are served by workers in the lowest paying programs, with a floor wage of \$7.25 an hour and no benefits (see CTD's original graphic, below). We, along with our partners **ADAPT** and **PACT** (Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas), strongly believe that, if left unchecked, this will ultimately cause the collapse of the community care system.

Working together, CTD, ADAPT, and PACT were successful in communicating this message to some of our legislators, who provided for an increased base wage for personal attendants in the State Budget. In 2014, community attendants in these lower paying programs will make no less than \$7.50/ hour, and in 2015, the base hourly rate will increase to \$7.86. This will put **\$235 million more into the pockets of 121,000 community attendants over the 2014-2015 biennium**. CTD celebrates this development, but we see it as one step in a longer fight to give hard working community attendants a reasonable living wage.





2. Increased Community Services

If the disability community needs a strong attendant work force, it also needs access to high quality, cost-effective community services. As of April 30, 2013, there were 153,609 Texans on the interest lists for Medicaid community waivers. That's a lot of people, and these lists aren't getting shorter. That's why CTD prioritized the **continuous expansion of community services slots**, and we are please to report progress. Over the course of the 2014-2015 biennium:

- **5,700** new people will be served in the Medicaid waivers program.
- When a person is at risk of institutionalization, the promoting independence program helps keep him or her in the community. The number served by this program will **increase by 1,150**.
- The Community First Choice Option will bring new services to **12,000** individuals who now get few or no community services.
- All told, this amounts to **\$612 million in expanded community services**.



3. Small-Investment, High-Return DARS Programs

"Exceptional Items" are those that the Legislative Budget Board has not included in the state budget, but that a particular state agency considers very important. This session, CTD took note of and pushed successfully for several Exceptional Items in the **Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)** proposed budget. These programs are small investments with a big return. Populations that will benefit include kids with disabilities, the deaf and hard of hearing community, and people with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries. CTD helped the following DARS Exceptional Items receive funding:

- **Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)** services to 380 more families with a young child with significant disabilities
- Expansion of **autism services** to two new geographic areas: El Paso and one other to be decided
- Additional deaf and hard of hearing **resource specialist** contracts
- Increase in the number of certified sign language **interpreters** and training for existing interpreters to obtain higher levels of certification or specialty certificates.
- Elimination of the waiting list for high-impact **comprehensive rehabilitation services**.

Texas Medicaid Matters

Medicaid itself was a huge topic this session, with lawmakers proposing plans for its maintenance, expansion, and reform. CTD supported Medicaid expansion bills, including HB 3791, Rep. John Zerwas' "Texas Solution". To no one's surprise, uncompromising conservatives refused to consider bills that would have addressed Texas' uninsured population and growing demand for Medicaid services. However, CTD and our allies don't see this session as a total loss for Medicaid. Here's why:

In addition to working inside the Capitol to protect and improve this public service, CTD helped organize the largest disability rally ever in Texas to tell the legislature that Texas Medicaid Matters. Said of the rally on March 5:

Twitter: @CDFTexas: "amazing! MT @CDFTexas @TX_Legislature 2day's #Medicaid rally=3000 people strong! They're knocking. You listening? #txmm #advocate4medicaid"

MyFoxAustin: "The debate over expanding the state Medicaid program is heating up again. A march and rally took place Tuesday at the Capitol to pressure lawmakers into going against the GOP leadership that opposes the idea... They traveled from across the state to march through downtown Austin Tuesday morning. Some walked, others used wheelchairs but each shared a common message. "We need Texas to invest in us," shouted a march organizer."

SB THREE HUNDRED THREE: ADVANCED DIRECTIVES

CTD plans our legislative priorities carefully, but every session has a surprise or two in store for us. In 2013, that surprise was **SB303**. Very controversial and emotional, the bill dealt with **end of life issues** such as **advanced directives**, do-not-resuscitate (**DNR**) orders, and **decisions to stop treatment**, even including providing water. People with disabilities often express that they are at a disadvantage in these situations, and many feel their lives are devalued. So while we hadn't prepared to throw ourselves into this fight, we devoted untold hours and energy to this bill, joining doctors, hospitals, religious groups, pro-life advocates, senior advocates, and other disability advocates.

At first, CTD, along with many other parties and disability groups, opposed **SB303** due to inadequate protections for people with disabilities. Two things changed our stance. First, we met with bill author Senator Bob Deuell, who agreed to make some changes. Second, **current laws provide almost no protections** to people making end-of-life decisions. A family may be unable to protest a DNR order or a doctor's decision to withhold nutrition and hydration. Plus, a doctor is only required to give a family ten days notice of a patient's termination of treatment. We decided to consider a **compromise**; maybe we could not get all we wanted, but surely we could improve the situation.

We broke from our opposition partners, among them, some disability advocates. According to Senator Deuell and House sponsor Representative Susan King, **our support for a compromise bill was a game changer**. The hospitals moved from against to neutral; the doctors, Texas Catholic Council, and Alliance for Life accepted changes. AARP signed on in support of the bill. After all the meetings and negotiations, the possibility of the bill's passage began to materialize. It was not to be. One group, Texas Right to Life, aggressively blocked **SB303**, taking an **absolutist position** against anything short of a complete overhaul. The ultimate losers in this fight are individuals who will die before their time and their families, because the current law does not protect them.

In notes to Dennis Borel, CTD's Executive Director, on **SB303**:

"Thank you for your support—that was a tough decision. Scot [Kibbe, Deuell's Legislative Director] and I both think a lot of you and the work you do."

-- Sen. Bob Deuell

"Your input and perspective was so valued and really made a difference. I was grateful for your support."

-- Rep. Susan King

SB SEVEN: COMPREHENSIVE REDESIGN OF SERVICES

If one bill encapsulated the drama, antagonism, and confusion of this *Game of Thrones* session, it was **SB7**. In fact, author Senator Jane Nelson, called it "the most misrepresented bill of the year". This complex bill called for far reaching **reform of the quality and delivery of Medicaid supports and services**, among other health and human services. It sparked controversy and misunderstandings among advocates and lawmakers, and misinformation proliferated. Over the course of the legislature, **SB7's** contents underwent enough revisions to merit its own appendix.



CTD **supported** SB7 from the beginning for two reasons. First, we knew that we could either help guide its development or refuse to participate and have no say. We chose to take a seat at the table. We were fortunate that key players invited us to give input on the bill even before session began. We worked early on with the staffs of Senator Nelson, Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst, House Speaker Joe Straus, and House Sponsor Representative Richard Raymond. Second, one provision of **SB7** in particular aligns strongly with our mission and legislative priorities. The creation of the **Community First Choice**

Option (CFCO) provides habilitation and attendant care services to people on the Medicaid community waivers interest lists. 12,000 people will be served in the first two years, plus many thousands more in following years. The program is cross-disability, though we fully expect the majority to be in the intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) population, whose lists are the largest and waits are the longest.

The CFCO aside, there were many elements of this cross-disability bill that proved capable of igniting tensions among opponents. These items included a phased-in expansion of managed care to nursing facilities and community programs for people with IDD. Then, near the end of session, when **SB7** had passed into the House, a representative added an amendment that would have prevented Texas agencies from cooperating with the federal government for these jointly funded programs. Intended to **prevent a federally funded Medicaid expansion**, the amendment would have severely hampered or even killed many of the programs in **SB7**, including the CFCO. It was clear that the representative had put his own political agenda ahead of making sound policy decisions or even educating himself about the way these programs actually function. While the amendment stayed in the final version of **SB7**, CTD was among groups that helped negotiate more appropriate language that preserved better services to the existing Medicaid population.

Throughout the months of the legislature, **SB7**'s authors and key state agency representatives called for public input on the bill, and advocates responded with many hours of public testimony. CTD was active throughout, including working with the **Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas** to organize and live stream a **Town Hall Meeting on SB7** (right).

The final version of **SB7** passed and has been signed by the governor, but the work is far from over. The **managed care expansion will be a 10-year process**. CTD and ADAPT were the first advocacy organizations to come out publicly in support of **SB7**, and you can count on us to continue to monitor and keep you informed about this far-reaching reform.



SB7 Town Hall Panel, from left: Chris Traylor, HHSC Chief Deputy Commissioner, Shannon Ghangurde, Director, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, Jamie Dudensing, Office of the Lieutenant Governor Senior Advisor for Budget and Policy, Sharen Ludher, Policy Analyst, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, Jon Weizenbaum, DADS Commissioner

KEY PRIORITIES: ISSUES TO WHICH CTD LENT MAJOR SUPPORT

Hundreds of bills proposed each session have the potential to affect the lives of Texans with disabilities; in order to maximize our impact, we must prioritize. In 2013, CTD determined that the issues below deserved considerable attention, and we played a key role in each of their development. Healthcare and medicine, employment, education, and State Supported Living Centers were in our sights.

STATE SUPPORTED LIVING CENTERS



It's not uncommon for CTD to join forces with an unexpected ally in order to pursue a common goal. This session, we partnered with the conservative **Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF)** to take a close look at creating a **long-term plan for our State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs)**.

CTD strongly supports rightsizing the hugely expensive SSLC system and directing savings to community services and supports. This is why CTD and TPPF approached Senator José Rodríguez and Representative Stephanie Klick to file bills on our behalf. **SB1766 & HB3527** would have created criteria, requirements, and a plan for the **closure and the consolidation** of Texas' 13 SSLCs. CTD and TPPF weren't the only organizations bending ears about the SSLCs. Filed on behalf of **Community Now!** and ADAPT, **HB3528 & SB729** would have created a **State Supported Realignment Commission** to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the operation and management of the SSLCs. **SB1045** proposed an **independent evaluation** of the SSLC system if an SSLC was to be consolidated or closed. CTD supported each of these bills.

Even though none of these major SSLCs reform bills made it through all of the legislative hurdles to become law, we secured a couple of wins. **Rider 39**, attached to **SB1** (the budget that passed), instructs the **Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)** to develop a ten-year plan for the provision of services to persons residing in SSLCs. The plan will look at system needs, infrastructure needs, and capacity and demand needs of the state, as well as serving individuals in the most integrated settings appropriate to their needs.

In addition, CTD successfully opposed **HB1828**, which would have added **hazard pay** to the wages of SSLC attendant workers, due to their work with people with disabilities. What danger! Not only did the disability community find this offensive, but this bill would have also increased the disparity in pay between state workers and community direct care workers. Community workers already receive no health insurance, paid vacation, or retirement, as their SSLC counterparts currently do.

Finally, **HB2276** will direct DADS to produce **specialty-marketing brochures** about available local SSLC slots, targeted to Texas families. CTD was the only advocacy organization to testify in opposition to **HB2276**, and even though the bill will go into effect in September, our efforts did not go unnoticed. Senator Judith Zaffirini made a floor amendment requiring the brochures to include all of the community living choices available to Texans with disabilities, not just SSLCs.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

During the last several legislative sessions, CTD has become increasingly involved with pharmaceutical policy, access, and affordability. This session came with some wins and losses. **SB190**, which we nicknamed the "**Gila Monster Bill**," was on track to open future access to **biosimilar medicines**. Unlike traditional chemical medicine, biosimilars and biologic drugs are made up of living matter. The future of biologics and biosimilars has great promise for improving the health and independence of many in the disability community. Unfortunately, personal politics derailed the bill, leaving **SB190** among the casualties of this session. CTD will continue to play an active role in the creation and support of strong pharmaceutical policies that create affordable and timely access to all medications, including biologics and biosimilars.

Our efforts paid off with another bill, **SB644**, which will streamline prescription drug prior authorization forms into a **single standardized form**. Currently, many Texans with disabilities find that the time consuming process of fulfilling prior authorizations causes delays in receiving treatment and in some cases, prevents it altogether. **SB644** will help to lessen this burden on consumers and physicians.

CTD continued to advocate for the **extension of the Medicaid single formulary**, which appeared in **SB7**, **SB8**, and **HB595**. A piece of prescription drug legislation from the 2011 session, the Medicaid single formulary requires all managed care organizations (MCOs) to use the same preferred drug list, including in their prior authorizations and program procedures. This protects patients from overly stringent prior authorizations, a 24-hour response to prior authorizations, and a 72-hour emergency supply if a response cannot be determined within 24 hours. These protections, along with the Medicaid single formulary's sunset date, have been extended until August 31, 2018.

TRANSPORTATION

CTD worked with the **American Council of the Blind of Texas** to pass **HB1545**. This bill calls for a study of the current public transit systems among Texas cities and for efforts toward a **paratransit system** that would allow transit officials to honor credentials of all providers. This would make travel by Texans with disabilities around the state much easier. In other transportation issues CTD successfully opposed **HB406**, which would have authorized licensed chiropractors to write prescriptions for **disabled parking placards**, greatly increasing the number of placards issued across Texas. CTD, along with others, believe that there is a need for more stringent policies to be put in place on the issuance of future placards in the state.

EMPLOYMENT FIRST

We found ourselves in a rare position this session to support a good bill not as advocates, but as employers of people with significant disabilities. CTD testified in Senate and House hearings for **SB45**, requiring that **employment assistance and supported employment** become offered services in Medicaid waiver programs. CTD testimony focused on the loyalty and production of workers with disabilities, the minimal cost of accommodations, and the fact that all of CTD's employees with disabilities are in unsubsidized employment. **SB45** passed.

BLIND STUDENTS



CTD strategically backed an effort led by the **Association of and for Visually Impaired Texans (AVIT)**: **HB590** will provide for an **Orientation and Mobility (O&M) evaluation** for students eligible for a school district's special education program. Through O&M training, students gain the skills they need to move about safely in their homes, schools, and communities. Early access to O&M services is fundamental to an overall successful education for blind students.

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

HB1039, Patient Direct Access (the PT Bill), would have allowed Texans with disabilities to access physical therapy services without a referral by another licensed healthcare provider. While this measure would have expedited treatment and reduced the overall cost, opponents of the bill prevented its passage into law.



Texas Forward is a coalition of broad-based interest groups united to promote a state revenue system that supports the needs of Texans and invests in public services. Over 60 secular and faith-based groups that focus on education, health, disabilities, labor, and more have joined this coalition. Through the 2013 session, Texas Forward members collaborated on advocacy, rallies, communications, and trainings, including the Our Future! Our Texas! March and Rally on April 10. CTD helped guide the group's activities as a member of the Steering Committee. At the end of the session, this committee elected CTD Executive Director Dennis Borel as chair.

OTHER PRIORITIES: ISSUES IN WHICH CTD PLAYED A SUPPORTING ROLE

Not all bills in a given session develop a seemingly endless back-story or ensnare countless parties in their webs. CTD participated in the support or opposition of many bills that stirred up minimal drama, passed without much to-do, or simply didn't get very far in the legislative process. They nevertheless merit mention.

Parents of a child with a serious mental illness will occasionally relinquish legal custody to the State so the child may access mental health therapies that the parents otherwise could not provide. Known as **voluntary relinquishment**, this sad situation is made worse by current procedure that places the parents on a state registry of abusive parents. CTD enthusiastically supported **SB44**, which called for the elimination of this harsh and unfair practice. The Legislature passed this good bill with no opposition.

SB505 would have circumvented long-established Texas licensing criteria for both orthotists and prosthetists, allowing unlicensed individuals to **fit and dispense complex orthotic devices**. In the last hours of the legislative session, CTD and many others worked tirelessly to educate legislators about **SB505** and the negative effects it would have if passed. They listened, and the bill failed!

During our 35th Annual Convention, CTD members voted that we work to support policies that **prevent texting while driving**, a safety concern for many in the disability community. For this reason, we supported **HB63**, which, despite overwhelming popularity, was stopped by its opponents.

SB1361 strove to create a **consumer bill of rights** for Texans receiving Medicaid long-term services and supports from the state. It did not pass.



At the request of CTD, Representative Eddie Lucio, III filed **HB856** to stop the state's practice of using and abusing its claim of **sovereign immunity in its ADA violations**. While many states have officially waived their rights of sovereign immunity and fully stand behind the ADA, Texas refuses to follow suit. **HB856** died in committee.



HB1717 and **HB1778** would have removed **interior design standards** from regulation. CTD recognizes the important role of interior designers in ensuring architectural accessibility and we advocated for continuing regulation. The Legislature agreed, and interior design standards remain in place.

HB767 looked to address the on-going issues surrounding **accessible parking** and the fraudulent use and issuance of **parking placards**. It did not pass.

Also filed at the request of CTD, **HB1088** looked to create stronger, more **extensive consumer protections in our expanding Medicaid managed care system**. **HB1088** joined the bills that did not get voted out of committee, although several of the protections were adopted into other bills.

Social Media Stats during the Regular Session

- 1/3: the portion of #txlege tweets that pertained to or came from the Texas Medicaid Matters March and Rally the day after the event
- 377: total views of CTD's live streamed events +
- 127: total views of live steam archives
- 254: total new likes on Facebook
- 136,846: total CTD Facebook post appearances



@TxDisabilities

LESSONS LEARNED AND WHAT'S TO COME

Over the years, CTD has found that successful advocacy comes from a combination of both time-tested and innovative practices, and the 83rd Legislature was no exception. We know that building and solidifying relationships with legislators and their staffs (on both sides of the aisle) can help secure a victory. Equally significant is maintaining our reputation as disability policy experts, which has helped us get a foot in the door to key discussions. Collaborating with industrious, creative partner organizations can also make a difference in public campaigns, community organizing, and policy work.

As in past sessions, CTD employed an end game strategy as the final days of the session approached. We identified good bills that were stalling and gave them an extra push. Conversely, we raised a flag on bills that were harmful to people with disabilities and had built up momentum.

This session had lessons for CTD as well. We got a crash course in what social media can do for a political cause when we hired social media strategist 9Terrains for the Texas Medicaid Matters March and Rally. While we excel in some areas of social media, 9Terrains opened our eyes about expanding the reach of the Rally via live stream and incorporation of traditional media coverage into our social media platforms. We discovered more in our unexpected alliance with the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Often having different views, CTD and TPPF joined forces to call attention to the egregious conditions and management of State Supported Living Centers. We consider ourselves seasoned advocates, but we still learned a lot about the inner workings of the legislature, influence, and power dynamics from TPPF.

Looking ahead, the needs and interests of Texans with disabilities don't stop when the legislature adjourns and neither does CTD's advocacy work. During the interim, our plans include

- Continuing our partnership with TPPF to expose and address the problems with Texas State Supported Living Centers
- Forging new partnerships
- Fighting the state of Texas' claim of sovereign immunity from the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Developing our communications for more effective, far-reaching interaction with members, partners, and the media
- Providing input for interim studies and changes to the Legislative Budget Board, the Sunset Commission, and legislative leaders

Our 2013 Partners

ADAPT of Texas
American Council of the Blind of Texas
Association of and for Visually Impaired Texans
Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas
Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas
Texas Public Policy Foundation
Texas Association of Home Care and Hospice
Easter Seals of Central Texas
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
The ARC of Texas
Texas Medical Association
Disability Rights Texas
CORE Healthcare
Center for Public Policy Priorities
Community NOW!
Texas Physical Therapy Association
Texas Association of Interior Design
Greater Texas Rehab Providers Council
Texas Parent to Parent
Texas Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America
The Center on Disability & Development at Texas A&M
National Association of Social Workers, Texas Chapter
Hanger, Inc.
American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists, Texas Chapter
Texas Association of Orthotists and Prosthetists

ALL OTHER BILLS

to which CTD provided input or testimony

| Bill | Description | POSITION | Status |
|-------------------|--|----------|--|
| HB10 | Supplemental Appropriations for Medicaid IOU | FOR | passed |
| HB220 | Consecutives Sentences for Abuse of a Person with a Disability as part of another Felony | FOR | passed |
| HB239 | Electronic Auto Insurance Cards | FOR | did not pass |
| HB489 | Assistance Animals for People with Disabilities | FOR | passed |
| HB720 | Drinking while Driving | FOR | did not pass |
| HB800 | Research & Development Tax Credit | AGAINST | passed |
| HB1089 | Managed Care Organizations to Cover certain Prescribed Medications | FOR | did not pass, provisions appear in other bills |
| HB1267 | Medicaid Community waiver program- Hospital Level of Care | FOR | did not pass |
| HB2683 | Prohibits Persons Convicted of Abuse from Attendant Work | FOR | passed |
| HB2847 | Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities | AGAINST | did not pass |
| HB2869 | Durable Medical Equipment Return/Decline | FOR | did not pass |
| HB2929/ SB 996 | Health Insurance Coverage for Traumatic Brain Injuries | FOR | passed |
| HB3251 | Functional Assessment | FOR | did not pass, provisions appear in other bills |
| HB3628 | Reasonable Workplace Accommodations | FOR | did not pass |
| SB39/ HB1138 | Evaluation of Visually Impaired Public School Students | FOR | passed |
| SB49 | Makes Children with Disabilities in DFPS Residences Eligible for Promoting Independence Programs | FOR | passed |
| SB1150 | Medicaid Managed Care Efficiency | FOR | passed |
| SB1175 | Durable Medical Equipment Reuse | FOR | passed |
| SB1216 | Standard Request Forms | FOR | passed |

