

draft - new

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2005 Legislative Report of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

BILL & SPONSORS	CTD'S ROLE/ PARTNERS	WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU
<p>SB1 (budget bill) Funding for community services</p>	<p>CTD testimonies, letter writing, direct visits with legislative offices, lead organizer of Capitol Day of advocacy, 10 presentations/ work shops/ press conferences</p> <p>Partners: all disability advocacy organizations, AARP</p>	<p>Restoration of cuts to community services. Preserved attendant care hours for current clients. Restoration of eyeglasses, hearing aids, mental health counseling for adults on Medicaid. Preserved In-Home and Family Support funding, very at risk. Additional \$54 M for demographic growth in community waivers.</p>
<p>SB1 (budget bill) Reduce community services waiting list by 10%</p>	<p>CTD among lead advocates. Testimonies, letter writing, direct visits with legislative offices, Capitol Day of advocacy, presentations/ work shops/ press conferences.</p> <p>Partners: Advocacy Inc., ADAPT, TX Center for Disability Studies, AARP, other disability organizations</p>	<p>\$300 M in total new funding to reduce the waiting lists.</p>
<p>SB1 (budget bill) Family-based alternatives</p>	<p>CTD lead advocate. Direct to Governor</p> <p>Partners: TX Center for Disability Studies</p>	<p>Funded and moved into base budget</p> <p>This program helps kids in institutions move to alternative family settings.</p>
<p>SB1 (budget bill) End wait lists for Comprehensive Rehab Services and Independent Living Services</p>	<p>CTD and Brain Injury Assn. of TX as lead advocates.</p> <p>Partner: Advocacy Inc., SILC</p>	<p>\$5.7 M in new funding to end the waiting list for CRS (traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries) and Independent living services.</p>
<p>SB1 (budget bill) Rider for pilot of money follows the persons to move kids from institutions</p>	<p>CTD in strong support with testimony, legislative office visits.</p> <p>Partners: Texas Center for Disability Studies, Advocacy Inc.</p>	<p>Will allow 50 kids in ICFs/MR to move out and have their services funding transferred to community based services.</p>
<p>SB1128 Hinojosa</p> <p>ADA rights</p>	<p>CTD originated and wrote bill and was primary advocate.</p> <p>Partner: AARP</p>	<p>NOT PASSED</p> <p>This bill would have held the State of Texas accountable for violations of the ADA. Opposition by Attorney General Abbott. CTD rejected a compromise bill as inadequate. CTD succeeded in publicizing this little-known issue and will continue to work on this issue.</p>

HB 768 Villareal

pwd request to receive absentee ballots for mail before elections would have made voting system easier for pwd + increased voter partic. in elections

<p>HB 2819 Rose/Madla</p> <p>Electronic accessibility</p>	<p>CTD originated and wrote bill and was primary advocate.</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Will align Texas standards for state websites, telecommunications and information technology with the federal 508 standards, improving accessibility for people with disabilities.</p>
<p>HB 1771 Delisi/Nelson</p> <p>Integrated Care Management</p>	<p>CTD among the lead advocates, testimonies, negotiating bill language, direct visits with legislative offices, obtained legislative intent letter</p> <p>Partners: ADAPT, AARP, Advocacy Inc., Texas Center for Disability Studies, TCDD</p>	<p>"The Battle of the Titans" on the expansion of Medicaid Managed Care to most urban areas. Advocates for aging and disability communities actively engaged both sides: the doctors and Hospitals v. the HMOs. Secured safeguards for consumer education and outreach. Worked with Sen. Zaffirini to record a statement of legislative intent in the Senate journal that managed care should end CBA wait lists.</p> <p>Next Steps: CTD and disability organizations are monitoring this monumental change in service delivery. Particular interest: CBA services, relocation, consumer education and outreach.</p>
<p>SB187 Zaffirini/Rose</p> <p>Protection of Comprehensive Rehab Services funding stream</p>	<p>CTD and Brain Injury Assn. of TX as lead advocates.</p> <p>Partner: Advocacy Inc.</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Reversed a provision passed in 2003 that would have allowed the CRS (traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries) funding stream, based on traffic fines, to be diverted. The CRS funds are much more secure.</p> <p><i>now</i></p>
<p>SB566 Deuell/Delisi</p> <p>Medicaid Buy In</p>	<p>CTD on design team, supporting advocate, testimony</p> <p>Partners: Texas Assn. of Goodwills, Advocacy Inc., Center for Disability Studies, Multiple Sclerosis Society, DD Council</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Important employment bill allows working people to retain Medicaid coverage. Removes the huge disincentive to work for people with chronic illness and permanent disability. \$6M in budget to fund the program.</p>
<p>HB1867 Naishtat/Zaffirini</p> <p>Money Follows the Person</p>	<p>CTD supported with testimony, office visits.</p> <p>Partners: Advocacy Inc., ADAPT, AARP, Center for Disability Studies, Multiple Sclerosis Society, DD Council</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Places into state law the previous money follows the person riders for people moving from nursing facilities to community placements.</p>
<p><i>HB 1999</i> Voter ID bill and amendment</p>	<p>CTD strongly opposed, testimony.</p> <p>Partners: Advocacy Inc., AARP</p>	<p><i>ignore: look at email & paste in info</i></p> <p>NOT PASSED</p> <p><i>Make it illegal for advocates to assist more than one pwr to in casting absentee ballot</i></p> <p>Extra ID requirements and procedures would've made it more difficult to vote for pwr</p>
<p>HB1391 Leibowitz</p> <p>Accessible floor plans</p>	<p>CTD in strong support, testimony</p> <p>Partner: TX Paralyzed Veterans</p>	<p>NOT PASSED</p> <p>This bill would have required that any large builder in the Veterans Housing Assistance program have at least one accessible floor plan available.</p> <p>Next Steps: CTD and the TX Paralyzed Veterans will work in the</p> <p><i>format</i></p>

		<i>format</i> interim with the state agency.
SB1586 Carona CBA wait list	CTD in strong opposition. Partners: ADAPT, TX center for disability Studies, Advocacy Inc., AARP	NOT PASSED This bill would have allowed residents of certain assisted living centers to move to the top of the CBA wait list ahead of those staying in their own homes.
HB481 Hochberg Unemployment benefits	CTD in support, testimony.	PASSED Allows a person with a disability to collect unemployment benefits based on past employment, while looking for part-time work.
SB626 Zaffirini/Naishtat Eliminate cost caps	CTD in support, testimony Partners: ADAPT, Advocacy Inc., TX Center for Disability Studies	PASSED Allows a person with high needs to remain in the community even if more costly than an institutional placement.
HB 315 Olivo State school admissions	Opposed by CTD by testimony, legislative office visits Partners: ARC of Texas, ADAPT, Advocacy Inc., TX Center for Disability Studies	NOT PASSED This bill would have promoted the institutional bias by easing admission standards and requiring that only state school information be provided to families.
SB1188 amendment Naishtat State Court judicial review	Supported by CTD, legislative office contacts. Partner: Texas Legal Services Center	NOT PASSED This bill would have streamlined dispute resolution between Medicaid recipients and the State, <i>saving money & time on both parties' side</i>
SB40 Zaffirini Permanency planning	CTD in support Partners: Advocacy Inc., TX Center for Disability Studies	PASSED Allows for independent planners to work with kids "aging out" of children's programs.
SB325 Zaffirini Illegal restraints	CTD in support, testimony Partners: Advocacy Inc., TX Center for Disability Studies, ADAPT	PASSED Prohibits asphyxiating choke holds and face-down physical restraints for people in institutions.
HB2579 Rodriguez Parental involvement	CTD in support Partners: Advocacy Inc., TX Center for Disability Studies	PASSED Strengthens parental involvement of minor children in institutions.
HB765 <i>Menendez</i> Health plan notice to consumers	CTD in support <i>CTD</i> Partner: Natl Multiple Sclerosis Society	<i>PASSED</i> <i>Relating to req. min. annual policy limit for certain grp. accident & health ins. policies</i>

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