

CTD  
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities  
316 W. 12th Street, Ste. 405  
Austin, TX 78701  
512. 478.3366  
Fax 512. 478.3370  
[www.cotwd.org](http://www.cotwd.org)

## **Opinion letter on poll worker training materials developed for HAVA Partners**

### **Introduction**

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD) was contacted to review poll worker training materials developed for HAVA Partners for appropriateness, sensitivity and compliance to current practices and regulations. The materials consist of video and print materials and include testimonials on private ballots, instruction on effective interactions with voters with disabilities and a series of case studies. CTD is recognized as Texas' preeminent disability advocacy organization on issues of voting accessibility for people with disabilities.

### **Methodology**

CTD employed a highly qualified review team of:

- a person with spinal muscular atrophy who uses a wheelchair,
- a person with complete blindness,
- a person with limited upper body function,
- two persons with quadriplegia due to spinal cord injury
- a person with legal blindness who is traumatic brain injury survivor,
- a person who is hard of hearing who employs a service animal,
- an official with the elections division of the State of Texas, and
- the CTD executive director and director of projects and communications..

The review team examined all video scripts, subsequent video clips and print materials for correct use of People First language, correct etiquette for effective interactions with people with disabilities, and correct information on voting practices under the Help America Vote Act.

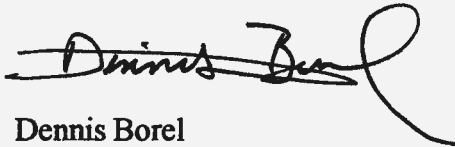
### **Results**

The review team found all material to in compliance with today's standards for correctness, sensitivity and appropriateness. Certain video portrayals and print materials intentionally describe conduct, etiquette and accessibility situations inconsistent with current practices and regulations; in each case, information is provided to indicate correct uses.

**Statement of opinion**

It is CTD's opinion that the poll worker training materials developed for HAVA Partners meets all current standards. In particular, we note that the video script and print case studies are based on actual experiences of voters with disabilities and that all actors portraying voters with disabilities are themselves people with disabilities.

For A Barrier Free Texas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Borel", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Dennis Borel  
Executive Director

September 14, 2006