



News

September, 1987

**COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES NEED YOUR
SUPPORT -MEDICAID REFORM
LEGISLATION FILED**

On Thursday September 10th the "Medicaid Home and Community Quality Services Act of 1987" S. 1673 was introduced by Senator John Chafee. A major press conference was held with groups representing mostly persons with developmental disabilities.

The focus of this legislation is to freeze the amount of Medicaid dollars used for institutional care and to redirect all new dollars to community placement. Letters from you and your organization asking for support of this bill will help enormously. Write to:

Senator Lloyd Bentsen
703 Senate Hart Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Phil Gramm
370 Russell Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND COME TO
HOUSTON!**

Don't miss the convention!



TECHNOLOGY FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

The Technology to Educate Children with Handicaps, TECH, Act was introduced in Washington August 3rd. The TECH Act would provide 20 million assistance under the Education of the Handicapped Act to establish Assistive Device Resource Centers for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities. The centers would provide training to professionals, family members and handicapped students on topics related to use of assistive devices. In addition they would have the ability to develop and modify devices and provide follow up services to those who receive equipment.

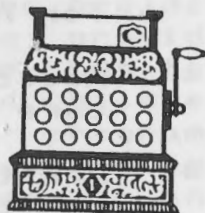
Each state's Governor would establish the centers through an application process open to public and private non-profits. Each state would be required to provide a 20% state fund match.

The bill was introduced by Sen. John Kerry (MA), Weicker (CT) and Stafford (VT), and is intended both to help students reach their educational potential and to increase their interaction with their non-disabled peers.



YUPPIE FUND RAISING IDEA!

Each purchase you make with your credit card could now benefit a disability rights group, the American Foundation for the Blind. AFB is one of the first members of the disability community to offer a Visa Credit card. Each time a customer uses an AFB Visa card a small rebate is given to AFB by the United Virginia Bank, which issues the cards and handles the accounts. The AFB logo is on the card. This form of fundrasing is becoming increasingly popular with non-profits of all kinds across the country. For more info write: AFB Development Department/15 West 16th St./New York, New York 10011/(212)620-2021.



F.Y.I.

Post Office Access....

Post office accessibility has often been a problem for disabled people in the past. Recently, the United States Postal Service, USPS, appointed Melinda Hulsey as manager of its architectural barriers compliance program in the Facilities Dept. at USPS headquarters in Washington D.C. Ms. Hulsey is also the USPS liaison to the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

Mrs. Shirley Sanford, Special Education Funding for TEA
8891 000,252

National Health Care Campaign

As you probably know, there is Catastrophic Health Care Legislation and Employer Health Benefit Legislation being considered in Congress. To show our state Senators and Representatives there is a growing movement supporting health care reform, CTD has enclosed National Health Care Campaign Postcards in this newsletter. (if you send the 4th Card to NHCC you will get a bumper sticker!) This program calls for:

- * Health Insurance in the benefit packages of all working families;
- * Health Care for all who live in poverty by making them eligible for Medicaid
- * Medicare coverage for long term care and prescription drugs; and
- * Health Care for all others who can't afford or can't qualify for Health Care.

If you would like more information or postcards for your organization, contact the CTD Central Office 512/443-8252 (V/TTY).

Correction:

In the July issue of the CTD News we gave incorrect figures for DHS's Respite Care Program. The correct figures are:

\$645,000 in 1988

\$745,00 in 1989



TEA GOES FOR ACCESS GRANT

Texas Education Agency is applying for a federal grant to increase access to education for disabled children and provide employment to the general public. If TEA receives the Removal of Architectural Barriers to the Handicapped Grant, funds will be divided into subgrants to the Local Education Agencies (LEAs). TEA is applying for approximately \$2.6 million in funds to be divided into about 60 - 18 month projects.

There are two goals of the project are two fold. One is to provide financial assistance to the LEAs to:

- * make available to disabled children the variety of education programs available to non-disabled children,
- * provide accessible non-academic and extra cirricular activities for disabled children.
- * provide access for adult disabled persons involved in the education of disabled children or eligible to participate in the programs administered by the LEAs.

The second goal has to do with creating employment opportunities for the general public, particularly in areas of high unemployment, through the award of the subgrants and the projects they create.

For more information contact:
Mrs. Shirley Sanford, Division of Special Education Funding for TEA
(512)463-9362.



Support Letters Needed

In the last issue we outlined the problems RSA Commissioner and CTD life member Justin Dart is having under the supervision of Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Madeleine Will.

The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) has also written a strong letter of concern outlining the problems Commissioner Dart has had in running the Rehabilitation Services Administration. (RSA). NCIL is also concerned because several of Assistant Secretary Will's activities directly undermine the concept of consumer control in the independent living movement.

The issue is one of control generally. Is the Commissioner a token only to be rolled out for public display, or does he have the authority to run RSA as outlined in The Rehabilitation Act?

What You Can Do

It is vital that we flood Washington with letters. This issue is vital to the growth of the independent living movement. Please write!

President Ronald Reagan
Office of the President
Washington, D.C. 20500

Vice President George Bush
Office of the Vice President
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable William Bennett
Secretary
Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202

The Honorable Madeleine Will
Assistant Secretary
Special Education and Rehabilitation
Services
Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202

Bork Confirmation Hearings Begin

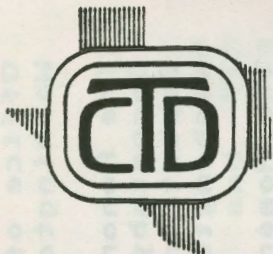
In what will probably be one of the most intense battles over a Supreme Court Justice nomination in recent history, Robert Bork began testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The CTD Board of Directors has taken a position to oppose Robert Bork's confirmation. Though Mr. Bork does not have a clear record on disability issues he has a record of being in opposition to every Supreme Court case that has expended individual rights over that of the state.

What you can do

- 1) Write to Senators Bentsen and Gramm to oppose this appointment
- 2) Encourage other member of your organization to write letters.

If you want more info on the Bork record contact the CTD office. We have a flyer on how his record relates to disability issues.



Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

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