



BULLETIN

News

November 1987

A Real Civil Rights Law for People with Disabilities?

Comprehensive civil rights protection for disabled persons is the subject of a new bill The National Council on the Handicapped has drafted. Soon to be introduced by Senator Lowell Weiker and others, this bill is much broader in scope than Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and would go further even than the Civil Rights Restoration Act in ensuring the equality of disabled Americans.

Entitled "The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1987" this bill prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, transportation, public accommodations, insurance, federally funded programs, and state and local governments. Forms of discrimination prohibited include: exclusion, segregation; inferior services, benefits and activities; architectural, transportation and communication barriers; failure to make reasonable accommodation; and discriminatory qualifications and standards. The definition of disability comes from Section 504. It provides for a variety of enforcement mechanisms and generally brings into line with other civil rights protections, protections for persons with disabilities.

Airline Access...Access Now!

A three year fight for access has ended in victory for Rosa Perea, a deaf-blind sign teacher who filed a discrimination suit against Southwest Airlines. The Department of Transportation, (DOT) has ruled Southwest's policies are discriminatory and must be changed. Southwest's had a policy said deaf-blind people HAD to travel with an attendant. Although Perea has flown alone many times on other airlines, Southwest refused her for "safety" reasons, so Perea filed suit under state and federal laws. After several legal snags and an initial ruling in favor of Southwest, the DOT reversed it's decision and agreed with Perea that the policy is discriminatory. "We disagree with the former chief law judge's implicit assumptions that sighted or hearing passengers, solely because of their sensory abilities, are likely to respond appropriately to instructions given during unplanned emergency evacuations, and that all deaf-blind passengers will be unable to conduct themselves appropriately in such circumstances," the DOT's decision says. Hats off also to Diane Shisk of Advocacy, Inc. managing attorney for the case.

CTD EDITORS' NOTE

The CTD Newsletter is edited and published by the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, a state-wide cross disability consumer group. Any member who wishes to submit future articles for publication should send them to:

CTD
P.O., Box 4709
Austin, TX 78765

BULLETIN

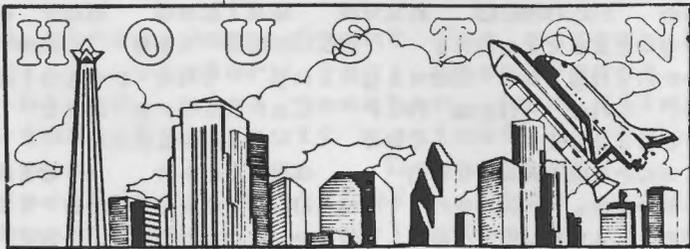
All the consumer representatives on the REGNEG have walked out on the negotiations. REGNEG is the group working on designing the regulations for the new Air Carriers Act which prohibits the airlines from discriminating against disabled people. When the DOT decided to pull the issue of the number of seats disabled passengers could use from the negotiations process and let the F.A.A. decide, the consumer representatives had had enough, according to PVA staffer David Capozzi. What will happen now? That remains to be seen.



Disabled People deserve equality....

" I do not mean 20% of equality in housing, 30% of equality in employment, 80% of equality in education, 50% of equality in transportation. Partial equality is not equality."

Justin Dart, Jr. - CTD 10th
Annual Convention
October 31st 1987, Houston, Texas



CONVENTION NEWS

CTD's 10th Annual Convention was, by all accounts, a great success. Ed Roberts, one of the founders of the independent living movement, not only gave an inspiring Keynote address and workshop on independent living and advocacy, but also helped put on an impromptu Karate demonstration. RSA Commissioner, Justin Dart Jr., in his report from Washington, told of the struggles up in the Capitol, and let it be known that he would not be fired.

Workshops on AIDS, Housing Options and Section 504 were informative and useful. The Founders Forum, in which all but four CTD Founders participated, brought back many memories of CTD's history and the reasons for its development. Deborah McKeithan gave a stirring challenge address. However, the highlight was the Halloween party at which some of the weirdest and wildest costumes were seen wiggling around the dance floor.

Next year El Paso!

By-Law Changes

Two major by-law changes were made during this convention. Now 10 individual members who are not representing a member organization may caucus and have one vote. Previously they could not be affiliated with a member organization. The office of "President-Elect" was created to ensure better continuity of leadership. The person elected to this position will move into the President position the following year.

New Board Elected

One of the main items of business at the CTD Annual Convention is the election of new officers and Board members. The results of this year's elections are as follows:

President - Steve Johns, Dallas
Vice President - Frank Lozano, Dallas
Treasurer - Dwain McMahan,
Amarillo
Secretary - Pat McCallum,
Seagoville
Past President - Bob Kafka, Austin
(not an elected position)

Board Members - elected:
Larry Correu - San Antonio
Vicki Harris - Houston
Tim Hervey - El Paso
Kevin Tracy - Austin

Board Members continuing -
Willie Mae Clay - San Antonio, Betty
Huffman - Austin, Jim Parker - El
Paso, Margaret Robinson - Amarillo

BULLETIN



Christmas Present That Helps CTD

Looking for a Christmas present for someone special? C.T.D. might have the answer for you... and it will help CTD too. Heart Worn Memories is a no-holes-barred biography of Willie Nelson by his daughter Susie Nelson. Approved by Willie himself, the book describes life in the Nelson family and Willie's climb to fame. It is fast entertaining reading about the Texas superstar.

How will this help CTD? For each book sold from our flyers (see the flyer enclosed in this newsletter) Susie Nelson is contributing \$5.00 to CTD. So fill out the order form on the enclosed flyer today!

(if your organization would like to distribute flyers and split the \$5.00 contribution with CTD, contact Bob or Stephanie in the Central Office 512/443-8252).



RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-three resolutions were considered at this year's convention. The resolutions and action on each will be printed in the next quarterly but a summary follows.

Transition services was the general focus of four resolutions which passed: two dealt with transition services for persons with learning disabilities in education and vocational training settings, one called for CTD to support inclusion of the Individual Transition Plan in the Individual Education Plan and another called for CTD to promote transition services for persons with mental and/or physical disabilities. Three education related resolutions which passed deal with: tuition exemptions (now available for deaf and blind individuals) being expanded to also cover persons with severe disabilities, requirements for Special Education teacher certification and UT Dallas' discontinuation of their special ed teaching program. Training in civil rights and comprehensive civil rights legislation for persons with disabilities (see front page article) were the subject of three other resolutions which passed.

Also, passing were resolutions which dealt with: In Home and Family Support, health insurance, AIDS, driving tests for disabled persons renewing their licence, message relay services, increased funding for the deaf councils, access to health care facilities, voter registration efforts and disabled people representing themselves on committees and boards.

continued

Resolutions (cont.)

A resolution calling for restrictions on use of friends and family as court interpreters failed. Tabled for clarification were two resolutions, one concerning provision of amplification devices on public telephones and the other concerning regional representatives for CTD.



COMMITTEES:

Committees established by the new CTD Board, and the chairpersons are:

- Membership - Willie Mae Clay
- Legislative - Bob Kafka
- Resolutions and By Laws - Frank Lozano
- Nominations - Vicki Harris
- Development - Dwain McMahan
- Public Relations - Jim Parker
- Awards - Kevin Tracy
- Personnel - Betty Huffman
- Communications - Larry Correu
- Convention - Tim Hervey
- Attendant Services Task Force - Bob Kafka
- Education - (as called for by Resolution DA-87-D-9) - Steve Johns

CTD NEEDS YOU!

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities often receives requests for volunteers to serve on various consumer committees. We would like to compile a list of volunteers who are interested in donating time and input on a statewide appointed board, commission, or other advisory committee. This is a valuable way in which to serve the needs of your community. If you wish to submit your name, please complete the enclosed form. You will be contacted for permission before your name is submitted for any committee requesting volunteers.

If you are interested in serving on a voluntary basis on one of the state appointed boards, commissions, or committees, please complete this form on the opposite page and return it to:

**CTD
P.O. Box 4709
Austin, Texas 78765**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

**PLACE OF
EMPLOYMENT:** _____

Present Job Title: _____

Address of Employment: _____

-
1. Areas of interest outside of work:
 2. Educational background:
 3. Professional experience:
 4. Organizational memberships:
 5. Volunteer Experience:
 6. Could you state an estimate of your present level of income?
 7. Because of your disability, would you need any accommodations to participate in meetings?

No Yes

Please specify:

8. Age Group (18-29) (30-45)
(46-60) (60 plus)
9. Ethnicity? Disability?
10. Please list your comments on a separate piece of paper. Also, name specific boards or commissions you may be interested in serving on.
11. Please attach resume (if available)



SUNSET REVIEW OF THE TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

House Bill 72, which was enacted during the 68th Legislative Session, mandated the State Board of Education to develop a Long-Range Plan for Texas Public School Education. The overall objective of the Long-Range Plan is "to improve significantly the quality of education for current and future generations of Texas schoolchildren."

As many of you are aware, the Sunset process has already begun for the Texas Education Agency (TEA). W.N. Kirby, the Commissioner of Education, delivered a brief summary, describing the educational services provided by TEA, to the Sunset Commission on October 16, 1987. Several issues were brought up during Kirby's testimony including:

- the shortage of qualified teachers in Texas
- the issue of local school districts bearing the costs of residential placements
- the need for a "master" plan for vocational education
- the high drop out rate (1/3 of Texas students are dropping out)

There was a lot of discussion regarding problems minority (black and hispanic) students are having. However, the problems of students with disabilities or the various issues of special education were not even brought up.



Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Post Office Box 4709
Austin, Texas 78765
(512) 443-8252

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Austin, TEXAS
Permit No. 1466

20 MILLION
AMERICANS
DISABLED
AND ABLE TO
VOTE

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED