

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities Newsletter



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1991

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

The CTD Legislative Committee focused its legislative efforts on the following positions adopted by the membership at the 1990 Annual Convention:

- Reform of Architectural Barriers Laws;
- Employment of people with disabilities;
- Increased funding for community-based services;
- Abolishing the Council on Disabilities and transferring functions to the Governor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities;
- Prevention of further establishment of pediatric nursing homes and closure of existing facilities;
- Health insurance reform;
- Restructuring state government.

The CTD Legislative Committee team worked hard during the regular session and two special sessions. Single and cross-disability advocates worked side by side, often working late nights and weekends. Overall, more than 300 disability-related bills were filed. This issue of the CTD Newsletter will focus attention on efforts made on the American Disabilities Act(ADA) and reform of architectural barriers.

For those who want information about an issue not covered in this newsletter, the Legislative Bulletin published by Advocacy, Inc. (512/454-4816 V/TTD), Issue No. 20, provides comprehensive analysis and bill summaries.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

CTD coalition members across Texas gathered at the Capitol on July 26, 1991, to commemorate the first anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and to press state agencies to hire more persons with disabilities.

The coalition called on Governor Richards, Lt. Governor Bob Bullock and House Speaker Gib Lewis to commit to full implementation of the ADA

and to support a rider to the appropriations bill that would require state agencies "to achieve parity in hiring persons with disabilities."

Pat Cole, director of the governor's Health and Human Services office, said the governor is committed to implementing the act and increasing employment of disabled persons in state agencies.

"The governor's office certainly will work with the leadership of the Senate and House to develop a rider which will accomplish implementation of the ADA through state agencies," Cole said. In addition, Governor Richards proclaimed the day "Americans with Disabilities Act Day."

In separate letters to the coalition, both Lt. Governor Bob Bullock and Speaker of the House, Gib Lewis, strongly supported the full implementation of the ADA throughout Texas.

Said Bullock, "We cannot afford to leave up barriers of any type to people who can and want to contribute to our society and economy." Lewis added that "We must encourage state agencies to be aggressive in adding the many thousands of capable people who have disabilities to our workforce."

Important Facts and Figures:

- Of the 97 state agencies that the coalition was able to poll, 55 have no disabled employees;
- Of those state agencies who do employ disabled persons, they average only about 3 percent of the workforce;
- Statewide, the unemployment rate among disabled persons is 72 percent.

CTD SEEKS TO BOOST ADA WITH EMPLOYMENT RIDER

From a CTD written draft, the Governor's office prepared a rider to Article V of the State Appropriations Act requiring all state agencies to:

- Achieve a 9.16% employment minimum of people with disabilities;
- Modify employment practices to enhance hiring of persons with disabilities;
- Develop and file a policy consistent with ADA laws with the Governor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities.

Although the Lt. Governor placed the rider on the budget, it was removed by the "conference committee" during the last minute urgency to pass

the budget. However, it is unknown why the rider was eliminated from the budget.

In light of this, CTD has asked Governor Richards to issue the contents of the rider as an Executive Order.

HOUSE BILL 39 - ARTICLE 9102. ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS

Major changes were made to our state's architectural barriers laws thanks to intensive work done by the CTD legislative committee during the past year. Former CTD director, Carole Patterson, started the ball rolling with strong recommendations to the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission. Redge Westbrook, CTD legislative chair and Belinda Carlton, CTD director, continued to make and review recommendations of the Sunset Commission and even wrote final comments to the commission on New Year's Eve.

When the session opened January 8, CTD began the assault -- testifying before committees, talking to individual legislators, and attempting to garner support throughout two special sessions. Coalition members Stephanie Thomas, Wayne Spahn, Danny Saenz, and CTD director Belinda Carlton all testified during the sessions.

Two times (during the regular and special session) the State Architectural Barriers Program was abolished when political conflicts prevented passage of the bill reauthorizing the State Purchasing and General Services Commission, former home of architectural barriers. Each time, CTD had to scramble to rebuild past accomplishments. The Program was almost lost a third time when Representative Robert Junell attempted to abolish the Program during a conference committee.

At times, Carlton, Thomas and Bob Kafka "took up residence" at the Capitol to protect coalition efforts. Support from CTD members around the state also proved to be critical. Mary Amos, WTAPD El Paso, educated her state senator, Peggy Rosson, about the importance of the architectural barriers program. Rosson later pushed through two amendments for us. The CTD Legislative Day, April 15, and ADA's one year anniversary press conference added further strength.

In addition to other commitments made at the July 26th ADA press conference, the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker all made written commitments to eliminate architectural barriers.

CTD wishes to thank the following people for their effort and relentless support:

- **Senator Gonzalo Barrientos** (Austin) and his aides, **Andy Homer** and **Richard Hamner**;
- **Representative Bruce Gibson** (Cleburne), chair of the House Government Organizations Committee and his aide, **Mike Dunn**;
- **The Texas Sunset Advisory Committee staff**, especially **Ann Blevins**, for their thorough research and strong recommendations to the Legislature.

THE CHANGES TO TEXAS ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS LAWS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Places control of architectural barrier laws under control of the Texas Commission on Licensing and Regulation.
- Expands coverage to the entire state, not just counties with populations over 45,000 as was previously the case.
- Exemption of the University of Texas System from compliance has been removed (until now U.T. had been allowed to "self-monitor").
- Requires compliance for "public accommodations" as defined by the ADA (a major victory).
- Creates an advisory board made up of 51 percent persons with disabilities which will review rules and proposed changes.
- Replaces words like "handicapped" with "people first" language.
- Replaces offensive definitions of individual disabilities with the first part of the federal definition: "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities."

- Requires informing people with disabilities and others about the law.
- Allows for contracts with other interested parties, including non-profits, for review and inspection of privately financed buildings.
- Provides that the Governor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities shall be involved "in carrying out commissioner responsibilities". (As of press time, this last minute addition to the bill had not been spelled out.)
- Establishes administrative penalties and allows 90 days for compliance.
- Establishes fee system for the review of plans, inspection of buildings and processing of requests to waive or modify standards.
- Requires standards, specifications and rules to be consistent with federal law.
- Requires plans for new construction and substantial modification costing \$50,000 or more to be submitted prior to beginning work.
- Requires commission to inspect buildings within the first year after the date of construction.

THE ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Architectural Barriers Advisory Board will undoubtedly play a vital role in the future strength and compliance of architectural barriers laws in Texas. In order to implement the above stated changes, CTD needs strong committed consumers on the advisory committee who will review existing laws and evaluate Legislative written rules. If you are keenly interested in serving on the advisory committee, please contact Belinda at CTD:(512)478-3366 C/TDD or write or call Rick Boudoin at P.O. Box 12157, Austin, TX 78711; (512)463-3211.

RESTRUCTURING/CONSOLIDATION OF STATE AGENCIES

Governor Richard contacted CTD in early July asking for input and response concerning the proposal to restructure state government, specifically in the reorganization of Health and Human Services. The detailed response, prepared by CTD's Executive Committee, has received many positive comments from community and government leaders.

CTD recommended that in order for the Health and Human Services restructuring to be successful, the following elements must be addressed:

- **Consumer involvement at all levels of the system;**
- **Recognition that each disability has its own unique needs;**
- **A clear understanding that any revamping of the health and human services must include an increase, not a decrease in funding;**
- **An emphasis on community-based, rather than institutionally-based, programs and services;**
- **An acknowledgement that the creation of a massive health and human services bureaucracy does not necessarily lead to improvement in the quality and quantity of care;**
- **The incorporation, at all levels, of the provisions of the ADA and other federal legislation pertaining to persons with disabilities.**

Restructuring Article I, HB 7

On August 5, 1991, the House/Senate Human Services Conference Committee adopted a compromise version of HB 7, the health

and human services restructuring bill. The bill calls for the creation of a Health and Human Services Commission managed by one commissioner appointed by the governor. The commissioner will be responsible for the development of a coordinated, six-year strategic plan for health and human services.

The legislature has required the commission to submit recommendations and an implementation plan by January 1, 1993, for:

- permanent governing structures of health and human services agencies;
- functional consolidation of agencies and programs.

The following are defined as state health and human service agencies:

- **Interagency Council on Early Childhood Intervention Services;**
- **Texas Department on Aging;**
- **Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse;**
- **Texas Commission for the Blind;**
- **Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired;**
- **Texas Department of Health;**
- **Texas Department of Human Services;**
- **Texas Juvenile Probation Commission;**
- **Texas Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation;**
- **Texas Rehabilitation Commission;**
- **Texas Youth Commission.**

The bill maintains the autonomy of the above mentioned state agencies. Further, each agency will continue to operate with its own policy board. The conferees agreed that agency boards could continue to hire their respective agency commissioners subject to the governor's consent.

In addition, the bill would establish a Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, effective September 1992, to include child protective services and MHMR abuse investigation activities.

TWO STATE SCHOOLS TO CLOSE

On July 15, an ADAPT-lead group seized the Governor's Reception Room, demanding closure of state schools and an increase in money for community-based attendant services. After a 28 hour demonstration, Governor Richards finally yielded and agreed to meet with the group. Richards agreed to close two state institutions in favor of community care and promised to work towards more community-based services in Texas. She conceded that "People with disabilities will no longer be forced into institutions and nursing homes because of a lack of options."

Richard's commitment was later incorporated in the restructuring legislation HB7. She pledged to appoint a committee to report on the current status of state schools by mid-October. The committee will then have until March 31, 1992 to submit its findings to the Governor.

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE BECOMES TEXAS' ADA MONITOR

Senate Bill 381 -- The Council on Disabilities was abolished and its functions transferred to the Governor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities. One of the most significant impacts of this legislation is that now, one entity -- the Governor's Committee -- will be responsible for coordinating and monitoring the state's compliance with ADA. The Governor's Committee recently met with CTD and other disability advocates to hear our expectations for the Committee. In addition, the Governor's committee has convened a taskforce to respond to Governor Richard's promise to "identify existing laws and regulations which favor institutional care over community care."

PEDIATRIC NURSING HOMES

The absurdity of pediatric nursing homes was presented to legislators at every opportunity, although no legislation or reforms occurred.

NEW TAX ON BINGO

Without notification to the public, CTD or other interested nonprofit organizations around the state, legislative leaders pushed through three new tax-generating provisions to bingo games operation by nonprofits:

- A new 3 percent tax on bingo monies won by individuals;
- A new 3 percent tax on rentals of bingo halls;
- An increase from 2 to 5 percent in the taxes on the gross receipts of bingo games.

These new provisions are expected to bring \$50 million to the state each year. At the same time, the taxes have the potential to put non-profit organizations out of the bingo business.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

CTD, along with thirty other disability and consumer organizations, worked to defeat an insurance industry proposal offering a bare bones small-group insurance plan stripped of all state minimum mandates. All health insurance proposals were halted when the Governor filed a resolution calling for the establishment of a task force. The task force, to be appointed by mid-October, will make recommendations about reforming health insurance and improving health care access.

CTD has recommended to state leaders that Tony Schrader, a polio survivor and former Deputy Commissioner of the State Board of Insurance, be appointed to the task force.



"See... I told you that you only wounded him last season."

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (AKA THE STATE BUDGET)

The "Doomsday" state budget was turned around and current levels of services with additional funding to several programs was achieved as the result of tremendous efforts by disability advocates. CTD members responded to CTD Alerts with phone calls and visits to legislators in their home districts while many consumers and advocates testified before the committees. Participants at the April 15 Legislative Day, sponsored by the CTD Attendants Services Task Force and Texas Head Injury Association, took the message to legislators.

The following chart is a listing of the current state budget and the newly approved state budgets for 1992-1993 for the following agencies: the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, the Texas Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation, Texas Department of Human Services, Texas Commission for the Blind, and the Texas Commission for the Deaf.

STATE BUDGET

Texas Rehabilitation Commission (TRC)

PROGRAM	1990-1991	1992-1993
Administration	\$38 million	\$38.8 million
Vocational Rehabilitation Programs	\$181 million	\$184.4 million
Extended Rehabilitation Programs	\$7.7 million	\$8.1 million
Independent Living Care Services	\$9.7 million	\$9.7 million
Deaf/Blind Services	\$1.3 million	\$1.3 million
Personal Attendant Services	\$850,000	\$1 million
Transitional Services for Students	\$1.5 million	\$800,000

Texas Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation (MHMR)

Mental Health

PROGRAM	1991-1992	1992-1993
State Hospitals	\$430 million	\$479.5 million
State Centers	\$26 million	29.7 million
Community Services	\$269 million	\$335 million
In-Home & Family Services	\$4 million	\$6.5 million
Mentally Ill	\$300,000 ('91 only)	\$600,000

Mental Retardation

PROGRAM	1990-1991	1992-1993
State Schools	\$663 million	\$690 million
State Centers	\$51 million	\$59.5 million
Contracted Community Services	\$175 million	\$233 million
Home & Community Services	\$10.5 million	\$24.6 million
In-Home & Family Services	\$7.8 million	\$17 million
OBRA	\$29 million ('91 only)	\$40 million

Texas Department of Human Services (TDHS)

PROGRAM	1990-1991	1992-1993
Nursing Homes	\$1.6 billion	\$2.1 billion
Community Care	\$412.3 million	\$568.1 million
ICF-MR	\$232 million	\$328 million
ICF-RC	\$2.5 million ('91 only)	\$9.7 million
In-Home and Family Support	\$6.4 million	\$12.5 million

Texas Commission for the Blind (TCB)

PROGRAM	1990-1991	1992-1993
Rehabilitation Services	\$48.2 million	48.7 million
Blind & Visually Impaired Children's Programs	\$4.84 million	\$4.9 million
Independent Living Rehabilitation	\$1.33 million	\$1.35 million

Texas Commission for the Deaf (TCD)

PROGRAM	1990-1991	1992-1993
Local Contract Services	\$891,000	\$839,000
Board for Evaluation of Interpreters	\$144,500	\$171,000
Local Administration	\$455,000	\$310,000
Central Administration	\$240,000	\$417,000

CTD'S ATTENDANT SERVICES TASK FORCE GETS RESULTS

The Attendant Services Task Force (ASTF) was established by CTD in the early 1980's to provide a forum to identify issues and to recommend programs and funding sources necessary to develop a statewide system of attendant services. Today, the ASTF has grown to over 300 volunteer participants consisting of people with disabilities, service providers, advocates and state agency program representatives. The shared vision and collaborative effort of the group is what led to the Attendant Services Task Force Senate Resolution 887.

The guiding principles of Senate Resolution 887 were converted from guidelines developed by CTD's Attendant Services Task Force. Special thanks to Senator Chet Brooks and his aides, Lisa McGiffert and Leslie Lemmons, for their support.

ATTENDANT SERVICES TASK FORCE SENATE RESOLUTION 887

WHEREAS, There are over two million persons with disabilities of all ages throughout the state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Persons with disabilities, regardless of age, share the dignity and worth innate to every human being and possess unique abilities, preferences, needs, desires, goals and dreams; and

WHEREAS, The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by the President, recognizes the isolation, discrimination, and segregation of persons with disabilities of all ages; and

WHEREAS, With the passage of the ADA, persons with disabilities of all ages have the same civil rights as all American citizens and have the right to full access and inclusion in all aspects of the community; and

WHEREAS, Persons with disabilities and their families have the right to services and supports which are both accessible and available in their home communities and which can be adapted to individual needs and changing circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Persons with disabilities, regardless of age, and their families overwhelmingly prefer to live in their own homes and receive services in their homes, schools, and places of work rather than the institutional settings; and

WHEREAS, The state of Texas historically has spent the majority of its service dollars for persons with disabilities, regardless of age, on an institutional model of services rather than one that focuses on community-based services; and

WHEREAS, Attendant services, also known as personal assistance services, refer to any activity which assists a person with disabilities in tasks which, due to their disability, they cannot do independently or need assistance to complete; and

WHEREAS, Persons with disabilities want to remain as independent as possible, and having access to a comprehensive array of attendant services in all aspects of their lives, including assistive technology, is a prerequisite to increasing choice, control and independence; and

WHEREAS, Persons with disabilities who are employed or seeking employment need attendant services in order to obtain and keep employment; and

WHEREAS, Persons with disabilities have the right to accurate and timely information about attendant services, and the information must be presented in a clear and understandable manner in order to have true options and to make informed choices; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the state of Texas will take all actions necessary for the full implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That it is the position of the state of Texas that persons with disabilities of all ages can live in the community when provided appropriate services and support; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That it is the intent of the Texas Legislature to provide a wide, comprehensive array of attendant services and supports for persons with disabilities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That for all Texas community-based attendant services and supports, the guiding principles should be that these services:

- 1) be based on individual functional need;**
- 2) be available to people with disabilities, regardless of age, type of disability, sex, race, religion, political affiliation or sexual preference;**
- 3) serves persons with disabilities and provides support to their families at home, work, in the community, and in school;**
- 4) offer persons with disabilities and their families maximum opportunities for choice and control of attendant services;**
- 5) recognize and allow for changing needs and circumstances over time of individuals with disabilities;**
- 6) promote independence;**
- 7) develop incentives that create and maintain self-reliance and productivity;**
- 8) include options for cost sharing;**
- 9) be available throughout the state, in both urban and rural settings;**
- 10) provide for training of persons with disabilities on attendant recruitment, direction, and management on an optional basis;**
- 11) provide for basic training of attendants.**

AROUND THE STATE

CTD BEGINS STATEWIDE ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN

Hi, I'm Laura Brown. I am a recent graduate of the University of Texas in Austin. My passion for disability issues has been spurred by my personal experience with hearing-loss which requires me to use hearing aides in both ears. My work with CTD began in January of this year. As the Project Director for the new **Texas Disability Rights Network (TDRN) project**, I have the unique opportunity to work more closely with CTD membership.

The goal of the TDRN project is to establish a "powerful network of individuals representing a broad spectrum of disabilities, ethnic backgrounds, gender and not tied down to a particular issue, but rather working to win and maintain longstanding systematic changes."

CTD's initial efforts will be concentrated on the targeted cities of El Paso, San Antonio and Dallas. I am currently focusing on San Antonio, and we have hired Tom Pugh to be our El Paso organizer. Having lived in El Paso since 1983, Tom is very aware of the disability issues in the area. His grassroots organizing experience and his personal experience with cerebral palsy make him well qualified for the job. He will be working out of the West Texas Association of Persons with Disabilities' offices.

The grassroots organizing project provides a clear stage to build on the strength of CTD at a local level. It recognizes that change starts at home, whether it be gaining accessibility to a local building or obtaining better funding for health and human services programs. By pulling together our efforts, we can create a powerful force!

I have already met with many individuals in San Antonio, and I look forward to speaking with many more of you. If you are interested in knowing more about the TDRN and are "ready for action" in your local community, please give me a call at (512)478-3366 V/TDD or Tom Pugh in El Paso at (915)593-1097 or (915)593-2360 TDD.

Together, we can accomplish our goals of building a truly barrier free society for persons with disabilities!

THREE CTD MEMBERS RECEIVE GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

CTD wishes to congratulate coalition members, **Mary Amos, Margaret Robinson and Tom Carter** on their recent appointments by the Governor.

Mary Amos, administrator of the West Texas Association for People with Disabilities in El Paso, was appointed to serve on the governor's Continuing Advisory Committee for Special Education.

Margaret Robinson of PACIL in Amarillo was appointed by the governor to serve on the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities.

Tom Carter of DARE in El Paso was appointed to the State Board of Architectural Examiners.

FREE OUR PEOPLE MARCH

On August 12, 1991, over one hundred people marched on the state capitol to affirm their commitment to community-based services for all people with disabilities.

The "Free Our People" march was designed to carry a strong message to senators and representatives that people with disabilities are an integral part of the "New Texas." As such, an extension of community-based services was urged to allow people with disabilities to live and participate fully in the community. State officials were asked to channel money from institutional care to home health care.

"Texas will spend approximately five times as much on institutions as it does on the development of community services," said Lee Sanders, a disabled rights advocate from Houston. "Times must change. People with disabilities are committed to making this happen."

DEAF SCHOOL OFFICIAL RESIGNED AFTER STUDENT PROTESTS

Texas School for the Deaf board member, Gayle Lindsey was ousted from her position after a week of protests at the Capitol by students. The deaf community was angered by a letter written by Lindsey to Senator Gonzalo Barrientos. In the letter, she urged defeat of pending legislation that would mandate a board quota of more than 50 percent hearing-impaired members. (The bill later passed.)

If the measure becomes law, Lindsey warned in her letter, the list of "qualified deaf people" to fill the seats "will be exhausted in a very short period of time."

Thomas Koch, a student at the school, commented that Lindsey is incapable of representing the deaf community because "she has demonstrated an appalling lack of respect for the hopes, aspirations and dignity of deaf people."

TEXAS RECEIVES URBAN MASS TRANSIT GRANT

Texas was among fifteen states awards a grant by the Urban Transportation Administration designed to improve transit services for persons with disabilities and the elderly. Texas received a total of \$202,000 to be used for driver maintenance training, professional staff development in rural areas and the purchase of lift-equipped buses and vans.

Attention Coalition Members!

Starting this month, the CTD newsletter will begin bi-monthly publication. We are committed to communicating on a regular basis with coalition members around the state.

Please keep us posted on meetings, activities and events going on in your local community that would be of interest to the coalition.

We would also appreciate feedback from you. Let us know what you like, what you don't like and any suggestions for future newsletter publications.

Send all information to the CTD office: 316 W. 12th, Suite 405 or call Belinda at (512)478-3366 C/TDD.

FUN*RUN 1991

CTD's 11th Annual Fun*Run was held May 19, 1991 at Memorial Stadium on the University of Texas campus in Austin. Despite a mid-afternoon downpour, we had 90 runners and everyone enjoyed the food and drink donated by area businesses.

Approximately 15 different organizations participated. Thanks to Southwestern Bell Corporation for sending their Community Relations Team to run for CTD and to UT's disabled student's organization -- All Bodies Learning Equally (ABLE). Special thanks to CTD volunteers: Defores Gonzales, Lonnie Reisinger, Nathan Block, Wendy Blomberg, Rodolpho Guzman, Charles Clark, Santiago Lopez, and Dean Carlton.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

REHABILITATION ACT EXTENDED

The U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have approved legislation reauthorizing the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 for one year and implementing a new funding formula under Part H of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Sandy Parrino, Chairperson of the National Council on Disabilities, said that "if the ADA was the legislation that opened the door of opportunity for persons with disabilities, then the Rehabilitation Act is the legislation that must prepare persons with disabilities to proceed through that door." Therefore, advocates are urging that the Rehab Act be entirely rewritten to reflect the sweeping changes of ADA.

Seventy-five national disability rights advocates recently gathered at a National Leadership Summit to develop a "new vision" for the nation's rehab system. The following suggestions were made:

- Rename the act to reflect the spirit and purpose of a comprehensive independent living and vocational service system.
- Emphasis careers instead of vocational placement, entry-level jobs and "closure."
- Add a Community Action title to the act, emphasizing advocacy, consumer access to information and due process.
- Include a concerted focus on youth.
- Mandate entitlement to suitable technology.

ADA RECEIVES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

The Department of Justice awarded \$2.6 million to provide technical assistance under the American with Disabilities Act. Funds will be used for telephone information lines, explanatory manuals, pamphlets and video tapes, training courses in ADA and model programs that can be used to encourage voluntary compliance.

Grants were awarded to: the Association for Retarded Citizens, the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, the American Foundation for the Blind, the National Federation of the Blind, the Association of Handicapped Student Service Programs, the National Association of Protection and Advocacy Services, the National Restaurant Association, the Food Marketing Institute, the Council of Better Business Bureaus Foundations, the Institute for Law and Policy Planning, the Building Owners and Managers Association, Eastern Washington University, the American Hotel and Motel Association, the Police Executive Research Forum and the Foundation for Employment and Disability.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM (S.1177)

Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.) has introduced legislation that would require businesses to provide basic health care coverage for workers and their families or pay a fee to help finance a public plan that would be run by the federal government. S.1177 is based on recommendations from the Pepper Commission. The Senate bill offers several financing options while the bill introduced to the House by Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) is expected to require the cost to be covered with a payroll tax and a surcharge on income tax.

EEOC RULING DISRESPECTS ADA INTENT

The Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) has released final rules that will allow employers to turn away job applicants who might pose a safety threat to themselves. The text of the ADA mentions only harm to others. Disability rights advocates immediately criticized the rules as more of the "paternalistic thinking" that the American with Disabilities Act was suppose to curb.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION MUST DO MORE

Though the Bush administration receives high marks for its support of the Americans with Disabilities Act, it continues to ignore barriers faced by students with disabilities, says the Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights in a new report. Despite modest improvements over Reagan administration policies, President Bush still has far to go in promoting equality of opportunity, concludes the report, "Lost Opportunities: The Civil Rights Record of the Bush Administration Mid-Term." For more information, contact The Citizens Commission on Civil Rights, 2000 M Street, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20036; (202)659-5565.

NATIONAL AIDS HOTLINE OFFERS TTY SERVICE

The National AIDS Hotline now provides TTY callers with basic AIDS information, referrals, and free materials to callers. AIDS Information Specialists on TTY are available 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday. At other times, a taped message provides information about HIV and AIDS. The number is 1-800-AIDS-TTY or 1-800-243-7889.

ENGINEERING PROGRAM RECRUITS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is beginning a five-year national effort to recruit and retain students and faculty with disabilities at six U.S. engineering schools. The program is also designed to create models for removing barriers to educating disabled engineers.

BRAILLE TEACHERS NEEDED FOR NATIONAL PROGRAM

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) is looking for people with expertise in teaching Braille to participate in a national mentor project aimed at enhancing the literacy of people who are blind or visually impaired. Contact the AFB Western Regional Center, 111 Pine Street, Suite 725, San Francisco, Calif. 94111; (415)392-4845 for more information.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION....

1-800-4-BABY-LOVE is a free information and referral line to health care services for women and children in Texas.

COURT DECISION COULD HAVE FAR- REACHING IMPLICATION FOR DISABLED

A recent Colorado state court decision may have implications for companies that have special employment programs for people with mental and physical disabilities. The court ordered McDonald's Corporation to pay \$210,000 in damages to a parent of a three- year-old child who was assaulted by a worker with a disability. McDonald's was found guilty of negligent hiring, negligent operation of a restaurant and outrageous conduct. The former janitor is serving a 16-year sentence for sexual assault in the incident.

Employment law specialists say the case could have far-reaching implications for companies that want to institute or maintain programs for hiring people with disabilities. Suits such as this can only have the effect of dampening the enthusiasm for bias-free hiring programs.

YOUNG WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES STUDIED

A University of New Hampshire study found that after high school graduation, young women with physical, mental or emotional disabilities are employed at a twenty percent lower rate than their non-disabled counterparts. The figures come from a nearly completed, four-year study funded by the Department of Education. UNH researchers hope their findings will increase understanding among high school personnel and employers.

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING HELD

"Work: The Key to Opportunity" was this year's theme for the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities meeting. Over 6,000 people attended the informative conference held May 22-24 in Dallas. Noted guest speakers included Justin Dart, Patricia Wright of DREDF, and I. King Jordan of Gaulludet University.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RIGHTS PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY 1991 RIGHTS CONFERENCE

October 23-26 in Austin, TX

For more information contact: Mary Olympia
c/o Mental Health Association of Minnesota
(612)331-6840

14TH ANNUAL CTD CONVENTION

Theme: "Doing it Together--Disability Issues in the New Texas"

November 22 - 24, San Antonio Holiday Inn NW Loop

For more information contact: Belinda Carlton at CTD 512/478-3366



THANK YOU CTD SUPPORTERS!

March - September 1991

CTD 1991 FUN*RUN

Travis Medical Supply
Rehab Hospital of Austin
Wheatsville Co-Op
Eastside Cafe
Capital Cafe
Waterloo Ice House
Olive's Pizza
Mike Korth at UT Men's
Athletic Dept.
Strait Music

ADA CELEBRATION

HEB Grocery
Whole Foods
Justin & Yoshiko Dart
Durward McDaniel

FREE OUR PEOPLE MARCH

Kelly Moore Paint

1991 CTD CONVENTION

Texas Paralyzed Veterans -
State
Texas Paralyzed Veterans -
Austin
Texas Paralyzed Veterans -
SE Texas/Houston
Texas Paralyzed Veterans -
San Antonio
San Antonio Independent
Living Services
St. David's Rehabilitation
Hospital
The Weir Foundation

TEXAS TRANSITION TASK FORCE OFFERS PUBLIC FORUMS

Students with disabilities who are making the transition from school life to adult life will be the focus of a series of public forums to be held around the state. The Memorandum of Understanding for Transition, known as MOU, was jointly developed and signed by six state agencies to help students make use of community resource information regarding education, employment, independent living, and social/recreation issues.

Students, parents and advocates are encouraged to attend to give their opinions and input. For more information or to RSVP, please contact the persons in your area listed below.

CITY/LOCATION	DATE/TIME	CONTACT PERSON/PHONE #
San Angelo , Region XV ESC, 612 S. Irene St.	Thursday, October 10 7-9:00 p.m.	Lettitia Clay (915)655-3205 Ann Greenhaw (915)658-6571
Austin , Wyndham Southpark, IH 35 & Ben White	Tuesday, October 15 7-9:00 p.m.	Sharon Sheldon (512)331-5623 Ann Laquey (512)929-1325
San Antonio , Region XX ESC, 1314 Hines Ave.	Tuesday, October 22 7-9:00 p.m.	Marlyse Beaty (512)590-2107 Ana Poland (512)29-2447
El Paso , Region XIX ESC, 6611 Boeing Drive	Thursday, October 24 7-9:00 p.m.	Mary Amos (915)593-1097 Rick McCarthy (915)779-1551
Kilgore , Region VII ESC, 818 E. Main St.	Tuesday, October 29 7-9:00 p.m.	Mack Blackwell (903)758-2471 Barbara Modisette (903)984-3071
Amarillo , Region XVI ESC, 1601 S. Cleveland	Tuesday, November 5 7-9:00 p.m.	Karen Scott (806)353-0194 Gary Funderburk (806)376-5521
Dallas , Dallas ARC, 2114 Anson Road	Tuesday, November 12 7-9:00 p.m.	Sharon Deubner (214)231-6301
Houston , Region IV ESC, 7145 W. Tidwell	Thursday, November 14 7-9:00 p.m.	Nora Bowles (713)728-2201 Chris Hess (713)744-6367
Edinburg , Region I ESC, 1900 W. Schunior	Tuesday, November 19 7-9:00 p.m.	Earl Walden (512)781-7733 Harry Mosher (512)383-5611
Corpus Christi , Region II ESC, 209 N. Water St.	Thursday, November 21 7-9:00 p.m.	Cynthia Strong (512)241-6684 Kathy Danford (512)883-9288

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