



Call out the Posse

The House Senate Conference Committee is nearing their compromise on HJR 372 the "Balanced Budget Act" a controversial and dangerous bill which would have long range consequences for disabled persons receiving a wide range of services.

The proposal, known as Gramm-Rudman, requires a balanced budget by 1991, but exempts up to three-fourths of the federal budget from cuts. Those programs that would be eligible for cuts include: Supplemental Security Income (SSI), PL 94-142 Special Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, VISTA, food stamps, legal services, low-income housing programs and many others. Most of the defense budget and Social Security would be exempt. Opponents also have voiced concerns for the plan because it transfers power from Congress to the President to determine if each years spending reduction target has been reached and to make further cuts in "controllable" areas if they have not been reached. Supporters, however, claim that something must be done to reduce the \$200 billion a year federal deficits.

The following are the list of Texas congressmen that need to receive letters, phone calls, and mailgrams TODAY!!!!

US Representative (Washington D.C. 20515)

Tom Loeffler (Hunt, Tx.)

Appropriations Committee

Room 1212 Longworth HOR

202/225-4236

more

J.J. Pickle (Austin, Tx.)
Ways and Means Committee
Room 242 Cannon HOB
202/225-4865

Jack Brooks (Beaumont, Tx.)
Government Operations
Room 2449 Rayburn HOB
202/225-6565

Marvin Leath (Marlin, Tx.)
Budget Committee
Room 336 Cannon HOB
202/225-6105

Bill Archer (Houston, Tx.)
Ways & Means Committee
Room 1135 Longworth HOB
202/225-2571

Martin Frost (Dallas, Tx.)
Rules Committee
Room 1238 Longworth HOB
202/225-3605



Senate (Washington D.C. 20510)

Lloyd Bentson
Room 703 Hart Bldg.
202/224-5922

Phil Gramm
Room 370 Russell Bldg.
202/224-2934

Toll-free Health Info

Call the National Health Information Clearinghouse, 800*336-4797, for info on any conditions. Some of the 800 numbers they provide follow: Alzheimer's -621-0379 ; Down Syndrome- 221-4602; Epilepsy -426-0660; Stuttering - 221-2483 Spina bifida - 621-3141.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS

Though it may seem amazingly early the Department of Human Services (DHS) will be holding a public hearing in each of their twelve (12) regions.

These hearings will determine their program directions and budget priorities (this means money) for the next legislative session. This may be the only chance local folks will have to express their personal views on what DHS should be doing in regard to disabled services.

We need YOU to be there! Numbers will make a difference!

Last session disabled people showed up and we got \$2.2 million for attendant services. This is only a demonstration of what we can do if we get organized and show up at the hearings

Below is a list of the dates and times for the public hearings Call your regional office for the exact location.

12-2-85	Amarillo	1-4 p.m.	1st Natl Bank
12-3-85	Lubbock	9-12 a.m.	Garden & Arts Center
12-3-85	Midland	3-6 p.m.	DHS Office -N. Big Spr
12-4-85	El Paso	1-4 p.m.	City Council Chamber
12-5-85	Abilene	9-12 a.m.	DHS Office Spindletop
12-5-85	Arlington	4-7 p.m.	101 W. Abrams
12-6-85	Marshall	1-4 p.m.	Civic Center
12-9-85	Austin	4-7 p.m.	DHS Office - Winters Ctr
12-10-85	Harlingen	9-12 a.m.	118 East Tyler
12-10-85	San Antonio	4-7 p.m.	Inst. of Tx Cultures
12-11-85	Beaumont	9-12 a.m.	DHS Office - Gilbert St.
12-11-85	Houston	3-6 p.m.	170 Heights Blvd.

Interpreters for the deaf and Spanish speaking individuals will be provided.



CONVENTION UPDATE

CTD's Eighth Annual Convention held in Amarillo was, by all counts, a great success. Disability rights advocates came from across the state for one of the largest conventions in the history of C.T.D. Leadership, the theme of the convention, was highlighted in the four excellent workshop presentations. Keynote and Challenge Address speakers Frank Bowe and Lex Frieden respectively, braved a hurricane in Washington, D.C. to share their ideas on leadership and future directions of the of the disability rights movement. At the banquet a Boy Scout Indian Dance troop performed several stirring dances and coaxed many of the CTD members to join them in a final dance.



-New Board Elected-

After a good deal of campaigning and and a run off election the results of the 1985-86 Board of Directors election are in. CTD's new officers are:

President - Mr. Bob Kafka, Austin
Vice-President - Mr. Steve Johns, Dallas
Secretary - Ms. Pat McCullum, Seagoville
Treasurer - Mr. Alan Meyer, Houston
Immediate Past President - Mr. Marshall Mitchell, Amarillo

At large board members are:

Mr. Jerry Hassell, Austin
Mr. C. Tom Kimball, El Paso
Mr. Frank Lozano, El Paso
Ms. Donna McBee, San Antonio
Mr. Tom Morrison, Dallas
Mr. Jim Parker, El Paso
Mr. Kevin Tracy, Austin
Ms. Judy Wingard-Westbrook, Austin

The new board has set up the following committees and task forces for the upcoming year. Your input and involvement as CTD members is encouraged.

Committee Assignments, Chairpersons

Membership - Jim Parker
Awards - Kevin Tracy
Development- Steve Johns
Public Relations - Donna McBee
VISTA - Jim Parker
Legislation- Judy Wingard-Westbrook
Nominations- Tom Kimball (appointed by the board)
Resolutions and By-laws- Frank Lozano
Conventions - To be Assigned

Task Force Assignments

Older Texans

Tom Morrison

Housing

Kevin Tracy/Judy Wingard-Westbrook

Independent Living Center

Alan Meyer

Transitional Services

Marshall Mitchell



Thirty three resolutions were passed at the convention. Topics ranged from education to transportation, from older Texans to reading devices for the visually impaired. The actions of the resolutions will be published in the next monthly newsletter.



1985 Award Winners Named



CTD Awards Committee presented awards in each of the six categories at the Convention Banquet. Winners were as follows:

Public Servant of the Year: State Representative Jack Vowell, for his support of disability issues during the legislative session.

VISTA of the Year: Gene Ormsby, for outstanding and tireless service to both CTD and his local community of El Paso.

CTD Member Organization of the Year: The West Texas Association of the Handicapped, for their outstanding efforts in advocacy, networking and resource sharing and development.

Newsletter of the Year: "The West Texas Association of the Handicapped Bi-monthly Bulletin," for its informative, in depth coverage of a wide range of issues.

Grass Roots Organizer of the Year: Jim Parker for his long term dedication to developing involvement of disabled persons in advocating for disability concerns at the local state and national levels.

Justin W. Dart Meritorious Award: Lee Kitchens, for his long standing support of CTD and his work to better the quality of life for disabled persons in Texas, across the United States and even on occasion, internationally.

Representative Vowell will be presented his Award in a public ceremony in El Paso, sponsored by the West Texas Association of the Handicapped.





10th Birthday

December 1985 will mark 10 years since the passage of Public Law 94-142, the Education for All-Handicapped Children Act. This law basically provides the following civil rights guarantees to all handicapped children and their parents:

- 1) the right to an education
- 2) the right to a free education
- 3) the right to an appropriate education
- 4) the right to due process
- 5) the right to confidentiality; and
- 6) the right to nondiscriminatory testing.

In an effort to commemorate the passage of this law and to increase public awareness of the benefits of special education to children all across Texas, Advocacy, Inc. is planning a P.L. 94-142 birthday celebration.

On November 14, Governor Mark White will sign an official proclamation declaring December 3, 1985, as "Special Education Day in Texas." On December 3, Governor White (schedule permitting) will take part in a P.L. 94-142 birthday celebration on the grounds of the state capitol.

Advocacy, Inc. has also been working with various organizations and parents across the state in an effort to have selected children who are enrolled in special education interviewed by the media in their local communities. It is hoped that through this public awareness effort, citizens throughout Texas will recognize the importance of P.L. 94-142 and realize the improvement in the quality of education it has afforded all handicapped children.



Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

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Austin, Texas 78765

(512) 443-8252

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1.2 MILLION
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