

# News

AUGUST, 1985

## LEGISLATIVE SCENE

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### THE COMMUNITY AND FAMILY LIVING AMENDMENTS OF 1985

On April 3, 1985 Senator John Chafee (R-RI) introduced the "Community and Family Living Amendments of 1985," now S. 873. This bill would restructure Medicaid services for mentally retarded and other severely disabled individuals. S.873 would, over a period of 14 years, shift the priority of the Federal share of Medicaid funds from long-term institutional arrangements to services provided in community-based, integrated, family-scale environments. Mandated services now include case management, protection and advocacy and individual/family support services that include attendant and respite care. Medicaid coverage for services for severely disabled persons living at home or in community settings would be expanded under S.873.

In the House, Rep. Florio (D-NJ) introduced H.R. 2902 similar to S.873. In addition to correcting the "institutional bias" in the Medicaid program as it relates to severely disabled individuals, S. 873/H.R. 2902 will assist the states in establishing those home and community-based services which can prevent persons from being institutionalized. The knowledge and technology to provide community services to even those with the most complex needs are in place throughout the country, validating the purpose of S. 873/H.R. 2902 to commit federal funds to individualized, mainstreamed services in the community. S. 873/H.R. 2902 includes many provisions to ensure quality services for persons who are institutionalized and for those living at home or in community settings. Client, parental, and/or family involvement in the decisions affecting a disabled person are required.

It is important to remember that the process of deinstitutionalization is already occurring throughout the country. Unfortunately this process is often hampered by a lack of long-term systematic planning by the states for the transition from institutional care to a system of family home and community-based services as well as a lack of resources for such services.

S. 873/H.R. 2902 were developed in direct response to these problems and mandates long-term systematic planning by the states while providing resources for appropriate services within the community.

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities has joined with the Association for Retarded Citizens/Texas and other groups supporting deinstitutionalization in support of S. 873/H.R. 2902. In Texas, efforts towards passage will begin by securing the support of the Texas delegation and specifically co-sponsorship by several key legislators on the committee that will consider this legislation. It is important that we take advantage of the current recess and contact these legislators in their home districts. Please initiate a letter, telephone call or personal visit to the legislators listed below. The contacts should stress the bill's promise to expand the development of much needed community services for persons with disabilities and their families, also encourage each legislator to co-sponsor S. 873/H.R. 2902.

For the House of Representatives:

Ralph Hall  
104 North San Jacinto  
Rockwall, Texas 75087  
(214) 722-9118

John Bryant  
8035 East R.L. Thorton  
Suite 518  
Dallas, Texas 75228  
(214) 361-7710

Jack Fields  
12605 East Freeway  
Suite 320  
Houston, Texas 77015  
(713) 451-6334

Mickey Leland  
1919 Smith  
Suite 820  
Houston, Texas 77002  
(713) 739-7339

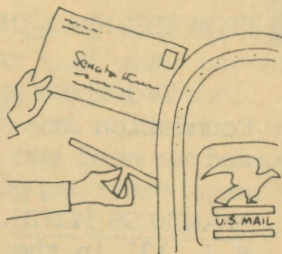




For the Senate:

Lloyd Bentsen  
703 Senator Hart Office Bldg.  
2nd St. and Constitution Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Phil Gramm  
178 Senator Russel Office Bldg.  
Constitution Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20510



CONGRESS AGREES FY 86 BUDGET BLUEPRINT; LEEWAY FOR REHABILITATION INCREASE ALLOWED.

On August 1, in a rush to begin its August recess, the U.S. Congress agreed to a Fiscal Year 1986 First Congressional Budget Resolution which contains enough leeway for rehabilitation programs to receive at least a cost-of-living increase (approximately 4.3 percent) in FY 86, and, perhaps, up to the fully authorized amount.

In that the resolution is not binding on House and Senate appropriations panels, and contains no reconciliation instructions relative to rehabilitation programs, input from rehabilitation advocates will be the determining factor if the Congress is to appropriate full funding for Section 110, Basic State Rehabilitation Grants.

THE FY 86 FULLY AUTHORIZED AMOUNT FOR SECTION 110 IS \$1,203.2 Million

As of this date, neither the House or Senate appropriations panels have begun to mark up (finalize) their respective FY 1986 appropriations measures for the Department of Education.

Advocates should take advantage of the Congressional recess period, beginning August 2 until September 5, to contact members of Congress--especially those serving on the House or Senate appropriations panels--about the need for full funding for rehabilitation programs.

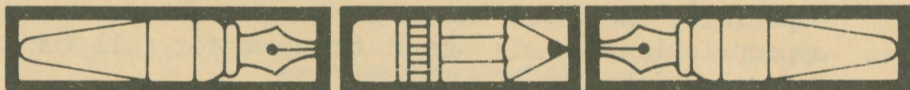
FROM THE HEAD INJURY FOUNDATION: LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Two items of importance to the Head Injury Foundation are currently before the U.S. Congress and we need you to contact your legislators and urge their support. One is NATIONAL HEAD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH. H.J. Res. 200 in the House and S.J. 132 in the Senate would declare October as National Head Injury Awareness Month. We want to launch a major public awareness campaign to coincide with the proclamation, and the earlier it is secured, the faster we can proceed with this effort. It is URGENT THAT YOU ACT NOW. NATIONAL HEAD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN UNLESS WE CONTACT OUR U.S LEGISLATORS.

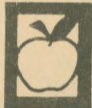
The second item concerns appropriation of funds in 1986 for programs to benefit the head injured, such as training, resources and information. Specific programs and funding you should request are:

- Rehabilitation Training to be fully funded at \$31 million;
- Vocational Rehabilitation Basic State Grant at \$1203.2 million;
- State and Local Grant Program of the Education for all Handicapped Children Act of 1975 - (P.L. 94-142) - \$1347.2 million;
- National Institute of Handicapped Research (NIHR) \$44 million;
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)- \$252.8 million for research and \$24 million for research training.

NHIF representatives have testified before Congress about the urgent needs for these programs. LET'S KEEP THE INTEREST ALIVE. WRITE TODAY. Your letter does carry weight. We all depend on your response.







With the implementation of HB 72 beginning this fall, ARC/Texas anticipates that many parents will be hearing the funding woes of the school districts whose budgets will be cut. Despite the decrease in TEA reimbursements for services, however lack of funds is NOT an accepted response in denying a child services.

School Districts must comply with the Federal regulation set out in P.L. 94-142. However, parents and advocates must make sure that the services needed are written in the child's individual Education Plan (IEP).

If you wish to add a service, make sure you make a written as well as verbal request. If the school district refuses a request of yours, they must issue a written notice specifying reasons the service was denied. Remember, you can request an Admission, Review, and Dismissal meeting to review the IEP at any time, if you feel a service was left out.

ARC/Texas feels that educational services are very important for persons with mental retardation. Let's make sure they get the services they need!

## PERSONNEL-ATIES

If you are calling the CTD Central office in the near future and a new voice answers as Executive Director, don't be surprised. Beginning August 19th, Jean Langendorf will be job sharing the position with Stephanie Thomas. Both will be serving as Executive Director, sharing the duties and hours of the position. Stephanie, who has been involved in the disability rights and independent living movement for several years, has been an active member of CTD and several of it's member organizations. Previously she has worked for both the El Paso Opportunity Center for the Handicapped and the Austin Resource Center for Independent Living. Her involvement with CTD includes work on the "disabled and able to vote" campaign, on the legislative committee and even

a short stint on the CTD board. Job sharing and working for a disability rights coalition, are going to be new and exciting challenges for Stephanie. She and Jean are excited about working together and about the prospects this unique opportunity will provide for CTD!

August 8, 1985

Letter to the Editor,

I would like to respond to Mr. Jim Parker's letter to the editor on June 17, of this year. This letter appeared in the C.T.D. Newsletter in the July addition and I would like to comment to his letter.

He stated that he was almost forty years as a disabled Texan and a citizen in the lone star state. He also stated that he was appalled and out raged at an article which was reported from the Associated Press. This article, so he said suggested that the mentally retarded persons, etc., wanting to live in a group homes should locate in industrial areas should there be neighborhood resistance. This is what our Governor Mark White of the lone star state, Texas was reported saying.

First of all, let me remind you that you can not believe all of the facts the Associated Press reports sometimes. Some reporters on the pay roll put a statement out of context and make the person in which they are reporting on to have the wrong meaning on what the person meant.

I being a disabled Texan ever since I was born in the great lone star state of Texas for almost forty years complement Mr. Parker for his letter and concern about the welfare of the disabled people of this state. But I being a member of C.T.D. and S.A.C.C.H., in no has he the same views that I have. I do think that he did not go far enough. If I was him I would have written to the governor or to his committee for disabled people to see how the governor stood on this quote which was reported him saying.



Second of all, the more times I read his letter it seems to me or it sounds like he has a attitude problem in one sense of the word. I agree with him that the Governor of Texas which is Mr. Mark White, if he made the statement as reported then the officers C.T.D., should look into it.

Enclosed is a check to renew my membership. I hope all members renew their membership plus some new people that they could get involved, so they too have a say in what they want.

Albert Kilian  
Giddings, Texas

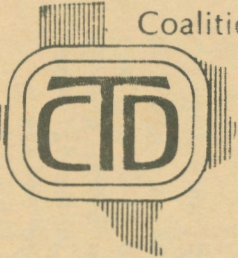
# BULLETIN

## TAX REFORM

Taxes and tax reform are becoming common topics of discussion, and Tax reform is one of the top priorities of the current administration. The concept of taxing "according to ability to pay" was the corner stone of the act establishing the federal tax in 1913. Recently however, that emphasis has shifted dramatically. The number of poverty level families paying federal taxes has more than doubled since 1980 and corporate taxes have declined from 25% of all federal revenues in 1960 to 8.5% of revenues in 1980.

The House Ways and Means Committee is responsible for re-writing the tax reform package. Texas has four Congressmen on the Committee: Jim Wright of Fort Worth, Jake Pickle of Austin, Bill Archer of Houston and Beau Boulter of Amarillo.

The Texas Alliance for Human Needs will be holding a tax briefing on proposed reforms. The briefing will be held in Austin, Friday September 13th from 12:00 - 2:00 at the AFL -CIO Auditorium on 11th and Lavaca. For more information contact the Texas Alliance at 512-474-5019.



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