

News

JUNE, 1985

69th LEGISLATURE FINALLY GOES HOME

There were a total of 4021 bills (2524 House bills and 1497 Senate bills) introduced this legislative session, and 1040 or 26% which passed. There were 330 health and human service bills comprising 32% of the bills passed this year.

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities' Legislative Platform fared quite well in the hands of the Texas Legislators. The following is a brief summary and status of the issues CTD supported: (a more detailed report will be published in the CTD Quarterly Newsletter)

- Community Based Programs and Other State Agencies' Services:

- * funding for attendant care under the Dept. of Human Resources -1.1. million in new funds and a contingency rider for another 1.1 million if TDHR can find the money.
- * The Texas Rehabilitation Commission (TRC) Kept the same '85 level of funding for '86 and the '87 in the vocational rehabilitation program and other programs including the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons. The Deaf/Blind Program was transferred from the Commission for the Deaf to TRC. The Demographic Study proposed by TRC was not funded.
- * Texas Commission for the Deaf (TCD) and Commission for Blind (TCB) had their existence threatened when the Legislators proposed that both agencies go under TRC. This proposal was defeated and TCD and TCB remain as separate agencies. Both agencies received substantial cuts in their programs. TCD will also be studied

during the next two years for sunset consideration.

* Texas Dept. of Mental Health/Mental Retardation (TDMHMR) approved budget allows for 50% in 1986 and 75% in 1987 for the expansion of community services to the mentally retarded population. ARC/Texas was successful in passing SB 940 bill which prohibits zoning against small group homes of disabled people in residential neighborhoods.

- Accessibility for Disabled Person:

* Gas Station Service legislation which would have provided full-service for disabled persons at self-service prices died in the Senate Committee.

* Legislation to postpone local measured service (IMS) charging died in House Committee.

* Legislation to improve access to the primary system in Texas failed to receive support this legislative session.

- Legislation affecting the disabled community which was not in CTD's Legislative Platform but which CTD supported:

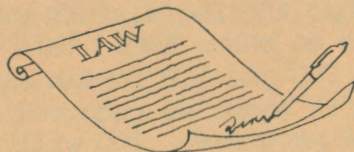
* Indigent Health Care Bill- broadened the impact and access to health care for poor people.

* Legislation allowing motorcycles to have disabled parking stickers

* Legislation to prevent discrimination against the disabled in auto insurance and provide better outreach with insurance information.

* Baseline Banking Bill-referred to interim study committee.

If you want to find out the final status of a bill you are interested in, please call the Legislative Hotline (1-800-252-9693 statewide, or 475-3026 in Austin). The Hotline will operate through June 28, 1985.



DAYLIGHT COALITION BACKS BILL



Extra daylight is important for people with retinitis pigmentosa and other retinal degenerative diseases, and the fight to gain extra hours of daylight has been going on for years.

Now a bill to extend daylight saving time an extra two months in the spring has been introduced into the Senate by Sen. Alan Cranston (D. Cal.) S.B. 240 calls for daylight saving time to begin the first Sunday in March and continue until the last Sunday in October.



99TH UNITED STATES CONGRESS TEXAS DELEGATION

Mailing Address: Washington, D.C. 20515

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Phil Gramm (R), 179 Russell Bldg. . . (202) 224-2934

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27. Solomon Ortiz (D),
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HOB—Denotes House Office Building
(D)—Denotes Democrat
(R)—Denotes Republican

Upcoming Events :

NURSING HOME ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

The Texas Legal Services Center and the Texas Dept. on Aging are pleased to co-sponsor this two-day training program, the Nursing Home Advocacy Conference, which is scheduled Friday, July 19th and Saturday, July 20th in Austin, Texas. The conference will provide an overview of the rights of Texas nursing home residents and funding for nursing home care, as well as a discussion of home health care alternatives. The conference is open to consumers, patient advocates, Legal Services, and private bar attorneys, para-legals, administrative staff, and interested community members.

Featured speakers for this conference are Albert Buford and Melissa Brown, the Director and Staff Attorney with the Center for Public Interest in Los Angeles, California, a non-profit agency which advocates nationally for the rights of nursing home residents. Other speakers are from the Texas Dept. on Aging, the Texas Attorney General's Office, The Texas Dept. of Health, and the private bar. Participants will be provided a comprehensive materials packet, including updated information on recent health care legislation and current nursing home litigation. The deadline for registration is July 12, 1985.

REGISTRATION: The \$100.00 registration fee covers materials, training, coffee breaks, and lunch. Texas Legal Services Center will waive tuition for a limited number of consumers and consumer advocates. If you need tuition assistance, contact, Carol Mosely at: (512)477-4562.

LODGING/MEALS: Rooms have been blocked at the Sheraton Crest Inn, 111 E. First Street, Austin, Texas 78701. Special conference rates are \$45.00 for a single room and \$45.00 for double occupancy (22.50 per person). Participants are responsible for making their own room arrangements. Reservations must be made by July 5, 1985. For reservations

call: (512)478-9611 and ask for the Legal Services rooms. Texas Legal Services Center will provide a catered lunch on each day of the conference. Participants are responsible for breakfast and dinner.



**SIXTH ANNUAL
STATEWIDE CONFERENCE
SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION
OF TEXAS, INC.**

July 26—27, 1985

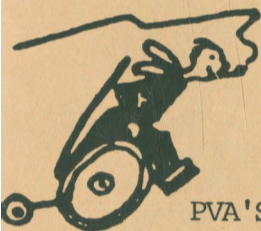
INTEGRATING OUR EFFORTS:

Parents, Educators and Professionals Coordinating
Their Efforts for the Achievement of Good Health,
Positive Self-Concept and Independent Living
Skills for the Child with Spina Bifida

AUSTIN HILTON INN
6000 Middle Fiskville Road
Austin, Texas 78752
Phone: (512) 451-5757
JULY 26—27, 1985

*Registration desk will be open from 4:00 until 7:00
p.m. on Thursday, July 25, in the hotel foyer.*

Contact Jenna Akridge at (512) 255-7035.



**PVA'S 39TH ANNUAL CONVENTION IN SEATTLE: THE
"ACCESSIBLE CITY"**

From lift buses to ferries with elevators, Seattle has become the "accessible city" and is this year's site for the 39th Annual Convention of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, July 29-August 3, 1985 at the SEATAC Red Lion Hotel.

Although Seattle is known for its hilly terrain, such geographic barriers do not impede accessibility according to PVA National Vice President, Jack Michaels of Seattle.

Convention attendees will be provided with bus schedules. Five hundred fifty buses, 51 per cent of Seattle's fleet, are equipped with wheelchair lifts. Notes Michaels: "Seattle's lift buses carry over 88,000 riders in wheelchairs per year according to our route-specific data.

"Washington State law is one of the best in the country," says Michaels, explaining that the law covers access for new construction which includes the private sector. "All places of public accomodation cannot discriminate on the basis of disability."

PVA's 39th Annual Convention in Seattle has a busy activity-packed schedule. "Not too busy," says Michaels, "between business sessions to enjoy the great beauty of Seattle and the Pacific Northwest".

For further information on PVA's 39th Annual Convention, contact the National Office.

Announcing

JOB-SHARE OPPORTUNITY

Director/VISTA Supervisor Position to begin late August, 1985. The position consists of supervising VISTA Volunteers, grant management, program development, fund raising, advocacy and public relations. A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in a human service field with experience in organizational development and volunteer recruitment and supervision. Approximately 20 hours per week, 25-30% travel, salary commensurate with experience. Please send resume to: Personnel Committee, CTD, P.O. Box 4709 Austin, Texas 78765 by July 15, 1985.

Southwest Center for the Hearing Impaired in San Antonio, Texas was featured on KLRN-Channel 9's "Perspective" recently. The 30-minute program tells the story of the Center and its goals of vocational rehabilitation for deaf and hearing impaired young adults.

If you are interested in viewing a videotape (½"VHS) of this program, please write or call Steve Sligar, Southwest Center for the Hearing Impaired, 6487 Whitby Road, San Antonio, Texas 78240-2198; phone: (512) 699-3311 voice, or (512) 696-0231 TTY.



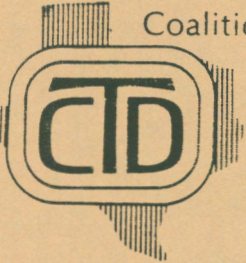
GRANDPARENTS NEWSLETTER

Grandparents often play a central role in a child's formative years, it is important therefore that the grandparents of children born with a disability be informed and educated along with the child's parents to help the "holistic" family circle of support.

To this end the Kings County Advocates for Retarded Citizens in cooperation with the University of Washington's Experimental Education Unit is publishing a FREE newsletter for grandparents of children with developmental disabilities to include developmental activities in medical, educational, legal and daily living activities. Written and edited by grandparents, the newsletter will be a sharing of concerns, personal experiences, remedies, and "how to" become a effective cog in the grand-child's development.

The newsletter is funded through a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation.

For a free subscription write: ESPECIALLY GRANDPARENTS, King County ARC., 2230 8th Avenue Seattle, Washington 98121 or call: (206) 622-9292.



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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DISABLED
BUT ABLE TO
VOTE