

CTD

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
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November 21, 2007

John Dycus
3607 Shady Park Dr.
Arlington, TX 76013

Dear Supporter of Disability Advocacy,

So how did CTD do this past year? What did CTD accomplish? Well, I'm glad you asked! Please review our summary 2007 annual report. The report is a quick read. You can skim it, pick out topics of interest and get a pretty good idea of the broad activities in which CTD engaged. For a full report, go to www.cotwd.org

Let's face the truth—Texas may very well be the toughest state in the union to conduct disability advocacy. Texas public policy simply does not believe in services to its citizens; **in fact, Texas ranks 50th in per capita investment in its citizens!** It is into this meat grinder that we ventured in the 2007 legislative session—and came away with **real achievements in the state budget, protection of voting rights and diverse disability legislation.** We didn't get everything we sought, but we'll be back to keep fighting the good fight.

We invite you to **become an individual member of CTD for 2008.** If you have been a member, please stick with us in these critical times for people with disabilities. If you've not been a member, I invite you to look over the enclosed annual report, learn of our work. If you are not currently a member, but have been in the past, please join with us in these increasingly critical times for Texans with disabilities. **We need more individual members.** To be effective for Texans with disabilities, **a strong list of individual members all over the state is essential to CTD's work.**

CTD **expanded its use of technology**, installing a web-based communications tool and doubling the reach and frequency of our electronic newsletter. CTD staff and members served on **19 advisory councils and workgroups.** CTD continued as the leading disability organization in promotion and outreach of **accessible voting**, landing an **award for the Best Public Affairs Campaign** from a PR group. Our **public awareness activities** changed attitudes and educated the public with and without disabilities. Plus a whole lot more!

Dues are still only \$25 for an individual, \$30 for a family, and just \$5 for those on a limited income. Every member counts to CTD. All membership information is on the enclosed member form for 2008. Be sure to include your email address! We will use email messages to keep you better informed of our activities and opportunities for involvement.

As we enter the season of giving, please consider CTD. A contribution to CTD can simply be added to your check for dues. Contributions to CTD are deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

For a Barrier-Free Society,

Dennis

John - thanks for coming to the Capitol!

Dennis Borel, Executive Director

CTD is a social and economic impact organization benefiting Texans with disabilities of all ages.
CTD is a 501C3 non-profit organization and your contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

CTD Annual Report Summary Fall 2006 - Summer 2007

I. Advocacy: 2007 Texas Legislative Session and More

Budget: The Legislature chose to leave Austin with a \$6.5 billion unspent despite the unmet needs of the disability community. Though we did not get everything we wanted, CTD fought alongside Senator Judith Zaffirini to ensure that thousands of additional people with disabilities will get services and benefits in the community.

Voting Legislation: We won this tough fight... numerous bills were filed to water down or eliminate the accessible voting rights gained under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). As CTD has done HAVA outreach and education, we heard many times of the value given to a private ballot, accessible polling places and modern accessible voting technology. CTD developed close working relationships with the election committees in both chambers, expressing the strong will of Texans with disabilities to never return to the days of disenfranchisement. And “voter ID” became a high profile challenge; if passed it would have harmed the voting participation of people with disabilities, elders and minorities.

Diverse Disability Legislation: CTD was actively involved in over 21 diverse bills with an impact on the community of people with disabilities. Two bills were filed at CTD request: HB2216 passed and will ensure that structurally modified vehicles will continue to be available in Texas. CTD was among the primary advocates for successful bills on consumer directed services, workers comp extended coverage, judicial review of Medicaid decisions, property tax cuts for homeowners with disabilities, accessible parking and protection from abuse, among the diverse issues.

To achieve all of this, CTD provided testimony at **public hearings**, had direct contact with **legislative offices**, supplied and reviewed **language for legislation**, and **wrote and distributed position papers** for the Legislature.

Thanks to all the CTD members, volunteers, friends, legislators and Capitol staffers who helped us in our mission.

The **2007 Legislative Report of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities** is at www.cotwd.org

Major Advocacy Project: State Services Privatization:

- CTD sits on the advisory councils of 3 of the HMOs—Superior, Amerigroup, Evercare—for direct dialogue.
- CTD has trained new staff for Evercare and Superior on effective interactions with people with disabilities.
- CTD set up over 40 consumer outreach and education events.
- CTD participates in the State’s managed care stakeholders meetings.

Major Advocacy Project: Protecting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott continues to fight for the State’s immunity from the civil rights protections of the ADA. His position: Texas has sovereign immunity from the ADA and may discriminate based on a person’s disability without recourse. CTD is at the forefront of this battle.

II. Strengthening the Foundation of CTD Public Policy Work

Political Leaders to CTD: CTD's 2007 convention drew Rep. Patrick Rose, Chair of House Human Services Committee; Rep. John Davis, Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services, and Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams,.

Raise Your Voice! Web Communications: CTD's on-line communications system to policy makers was introduced and logged over 2,200 emails to legislators from Feb.-May.

The CTD Messenger e-newsletter: Now distributed most months, the electronic newsletter continues to expand its reach. There is no cost to subscribe. Anyone interested can email wgreer@cotwd.org to be added to our mail list.

IV. CTD Appointments/Affiliations

Key Staff placements:

- Gubernatorial appointee**, The State Independent Living Centers (SILC) Board
- HHSC Executive Commissioner Appointee**, Promoting Independence Advisory Council
- Appointee**, Consumer Directed Services Workgroup
- Appointee**, HR 3295 HAVA Advisory Committee, Office of the Secretary of State.
- Appointee**, Direct Services Workforce Workgroup, DADS.
- Board of Directors**, CORE Foundation.

Key CTD Member placements:

- Gubernatorial Appointee**, Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Gubernatorial Appointee**, Rehab Council of Texas, DARS
- Appointee**, Architectural Barriers Advisory Committee
- Appointee**, Consumer Directed Services Workgroup
- Appointee**, Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
- Appointee**, Relay Texas Advisory Board
- Board of Directors**, Advocacy, Inc.

IV. Selected Public Awareness, Other Projects, Programs and Awards

Raising the Vote of the Community of People with Disabilities

- Worked with Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams to ensure that **voters with disabilities are the priority of his statewide VOTEXAS project.**
- Facilitated **trainings on Help America Vote Act (HAVA)** throughout Texas
- Presented a HAVA workshop at the **5-state IL conference in Little Rock, AR** and another at the **Brain Injury Association's fall 2006 conference.**
- Invited Presenter, **Secretary of State Election Law Seminar**, "Polling Place Accessibility" to 800+ county judges and election officials.
- Producer, nationally-released web-based **video training for poll workers.**

CTD started a consumer directed services agency (CDSA): Consumers in Travis and the surrounding counties can now obtain CDSA services from CTD, providing them more choice and control over their community services.

Legless Lizard Tour de Tejas: Without the use of his legs, CTD member Mikail Davenport hand cycled 950 miles, from El Paso to Beaumont to raise awareness for disability issues.

Help obtaining prescriptions: CTD participates in the Partnership for Prescription Access. Consumers who need help should contact 1-888-477-2669 or go to www.pparx.org

Cinema Touching Disability Film Festival: The 4th Annual Cinema Touching Film Festival was held in Austin in October 2007. Both nights were standing room only and gained significant press coverage. www.ctdfilmfest.org

National Road to Freedom ADA bus tour: CTD sponsored the Capitol steps event and press conference.

Awards:

The Legless Lizard Tour de Tejas won the **Austin Mayor's Media Award** in fall 2007.

ADAPT presented CTD with its **Disability Champion Award**.

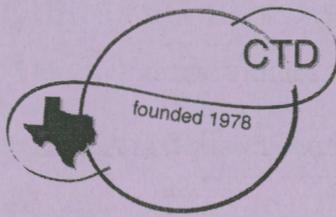
Won **Best Public Affairs Campaign 2006** from the **American Public Relations Society of America**, Austin Chapter, for its role in the "VOTEXAS" campaign.

The Amerigroup Foundation awarded CTD the **2007 Healthy Hero Award**.

CTD Executive Director Dennis Borel received the national **James Neubacher Award** from the University of Michigan, for his work to provide opportunities for people with disabilities.

Contributions: CTD is very appreciative and relies on the strong support of its members in addition to dues. Please consider a contribution to support our work! CTD is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and contributions are deductible to the full extent permitted under law.

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Yes, I want to join the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities!

Annual Membership Levels:

Individual \$25.00

Fixed Income \$5.00

Family \$30.00

Donations \$_____

Organizational Rates

State

\$200.00

Local

\$100.00

Affiliate

Organizations \$_____

Please see reverse for rates

Name: _____

of members /individuals org serves annually: _____

Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: () - -hm () - - wk

FAX Number () - _____

E-mail: _____

Alternative Format? _____

Your contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

*Please mail your check, payable to the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
(CTD) to the address listed above.*

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What people are saying about the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Yoshiko and I are proud to be life members of CTD. CTD has made monumental contributions to the quality of life in Texas – fighting to liberate Texans with disabilities from nursing homes, institutions, welfare, and backroom poverty. It is one of the best coalitions of any type in the world. We urge you to join.

The late Justin Dart, Jr., known as “the father of the ADA” – Nov. 2001

Thank you for your fine service to the State of Texas. Your willingness to serve your state is above and beyond the call of duty. Your hard work and commitment are deeply appreciated by this administration.

The Honorable Rick Perry, Texas Governor

You are doing a fantastic job in keeping the electorate informed regarding important legislation. You make it so easy...just by a click of the fingers.

Marcia Ingram, State Independent living Council

...Deep gratitude for your efforts...express our commitment to continue to build our relationship with you as a vital player in the national network to defend and strengthen disability rights.

Jim Ward, Founder/President, ADAWatch.org, national Road to Freedom bus tour

CTD exemplifies how public policy may support the humanitarian promise of technology...CTD, though by far the smallest organization at the “tech lunch” gathering, became the project lead to move Texas to section 508 compliance.

Jim Lydon, Vice-President, AT&T

CTD does an amazing job advocating for the civil rights of all Texans with disabilities, including leading the fight against the State’s claims of immunity from the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Ken Carden, CTD President and ADA attorney, Dallas, TX

I could not say that “Gov. Perry recognized and supported the need for a line item budget appropriation to continue progress on moving children from institutions to families” if you hadn’t included me in your meeting with the governor. Once again, your support has proven to be extremely valuable.

Colleen Horton, Texas Center for Disability Studies, Austin, TX

I look forward to our continued productive working relationship. Feel free to contact me whenever I can be of assistance.

Senator Judith Zaffirini

Congratulations for your awards from the University of Michigan and ADAPT. Both are a clear sign of the outstanding leadership you are providing in the disability community. Keep up the great work.

Ralph Rouse, Regional Manager, Office of Civil Rights, US Dept of Health & Human Services

Thanks for all your continued support on the VOTEXAS program...contributes to the success we have had...call anytime!

The Honorable Roger Williams, Texas Secretary of State

I congratulate (CTD) on your outstanding expedition to Mt. Everest by a team of people with disabilities. The participants’ determination helps to dispel the myth that a disability is a barrier to personal achievement.

Lynn Swann, Pro Football Hall-of-Famer and Chairman of the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports