

A Message to Congress from Representatives of 43 Million Americans with Disabilities

WE CONGRATULATE President Bush, Attorney General Thornburgh, Senators Harkin, Dole, Kennedy, McCain, Simon, Durenberger, Hatch and all who supported the overwhelming 76-8 vote by the US Senate to pass THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA).

WE URGE THE PROMPT APPROVAL by the US House of Representatives of this landmark legislation to provide to people with disabilities the comprehensive civil rights protection which other minorities attained more than two decades ago.

WE URGE THE REJECTION OF WEAKENING AMENDMENTS that would legalize intolerable discrimination which has made people with disabilities this nation's most isolated, unemployed, impoverished and welfare dependent minority.

REGRETTABLY, OPPONENTS of an effective ADA are claiming that it will impose unaffordable costs and lawsuits on business. These claims are groundless. They reflect the same obsolete attitudes, unfounded fears and doomsday predictions that have greeted all previous extensions of basic civil rights protections.

ADA, AS PASSED BY THE SENATE and endorsed by President Bush, strikes a careful balance between the elimination of discrimination and the interests of business. It provides for a gradual transition to an opportunity society, requiring that only new facilities be fully accessible. It specifies that no "significant difficulty or expense" be imposed on businesses. Virtually all of its requirements have been tested for many years under existing federal and local statutes — with no excessive costs or litigation.

IT IS THE PROPOSED WEAKENING AMENDMENTS that are unaffordable. President Bush has estimated that excluding 2/3 of working age people with disabilities from the workforce costs America \$300 billion per year.

ADA WILL FREE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS from the bondage of welfare dependency, enabling them to become employees, taxpayers, customers and full participants in our rich culture. It will result in direct economic and life quality benefits to every person in this nation. It will be remembered with the Emancipation Proclamation and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as an historic progress toward the fulfillment of the American dream.

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR. ADA, YES! LEGALIZED DISCRIMINATION, NO!

WE WILL REMEMBER THE PATRIOTS WHO VOTE FOR JUSTICE NOW.

Following is a partial list of the more than 8,500 citizens with disabilities, their advocates and organizations from every state who signed and paid their scarce dollars to sponsor this petition for justice.

National Organizations: Am. Council of the Blind, Am. Disabled for Accessible Public Transportation, Assn. for Ed. & Rehab. of the Blind and Visually Impaired, Assn. for Retarded Citizens of the U.S., Consortium for Citizens w/Disabilities, Disability Rights Ed. & Defense Fund, Disabled But Able To Vote, Epilepsy Foundation of Am., General Federation of Women's Clubs, Goodwill Industries of Am., Grey Panther/Task Force on Disability, Learning Disability Assn. of Am., Nat'l AIDS Network, Nat'l Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Nat'l Assn. for Minority Citizens, Nat'l Assn. of Developmental Disabilities Councils, Nat'l Assn. of Minorities w/Disabilities, Nat'l Assn. of Protection and Advocacy Systems, Nat'l Assn. of Psychiatric Survivors, Nat'l Assn. of Rehab. Facilities, Nat'l Assn. of the Deaf, Nat'l Council of Independent Living, Nat'l Ctr. for Environmental Health Strategies, Nat'l Easter Seal Society, Nat'l Head Injury Foundation, Nat'l Mental Health Consumers' Assn., Nat'l Multiple Sclerosis Society, Nat'l Network of Learning Disabled Adults, Nat'l Organization on Disabilities, Nat'l Rehab. Assn., Paralyzed Veterans of Am., The Assn. for the Severely Handicapped, United Cerebral Palsy, Visually-Impaired Persons of Color, World Institute on Disability, **Alabama:** AL Coalition of Citizens w/Disabilities, James Arthur, Barbara Bernstein, Jack Brown, Barbara Crozier, William Epperson, Suellen Galbraith, W. Don Garvie, Lilly Henderson, Dan Kessler, Lam na Lucas, C.J. Luster, Charles Priest, Michael Roy, Hon. Don Siegelman, Billy Sims, Hon. George Wallace, Hon. George Wallace, Jr., **Alaska:** Access Alaska, Don Brandon, Duane French, Hon. Rick Uehling, **Arizona:** AZ Bridge to Independent Living, Disabled Student Services/AZ St. Univ., Phoenix Commission on Disability Concerns, Susan Castle, Mark Cundall, Naomi Harward, James Hemauer, Abe Jaffe, Kevin Lanigan, Robert Michaels, Bill Scott, **Arkansas:** AR Disability Coalition, AR Rehab. Assn., Russell Baxter, Karen Bays, Vincent Bond, Gwen Countryman, Nan Ellen East, Delbert Lewis, Richard Petty, Bobby Simpson, Nancy Sullivan, Robert Wick, **California:** Media Access Ofc., Westside Ctr. for Independent Living, Gerald Baptiste, Francher Bennett, Diana Burkhardt, Lisa Coyne, Sam Dardick, Maggie Dee, Phil Draper, Brian Flotho, George Gentry, Kevin Haddull, Julie Harakins, Roger Hayes, Judy Heumann, Kalf Hotchkiss, Kathy Ivanky, Cyndi Jones, Margreta Jorgensen, June Kailles, Deborah Kaplan, Patricia Kirkpatrick, Atsuko Kuwana, Darlyn Lee, Peter Lipschultz, Douglas Martin, Connie Martinez, Mike Morgan, Ellice Parker, Brenda Premo, Ed Roberts, Robert Rosenberg, Jean Sandhorst, Mary Sigfried, William Tainter, Chris Templeton, Edward Tessier, Kathy Uhl, Fred Vescial, Pat Walker, Phil Wilson, Michael Winter, **Colorado:** Atlantis Community, CO Coalition for Persons w/Disabilities, Mike Arburger, Claire Arnold, Wade Blank, Clyde Coffman, Nancy Jackson, John Ozzello, JoAnn Roderfeld, **Connecticut:** CT Coalition of Citizens w/Disabilities, Marilyn Campbell, Hon. Naomi Cohen, Eliot Dober, John Gallette, Betsy Moss, Arthur Pepine, Ann Seigel, Suzanne Tucker, Phyllis Zlotnick, **District of Columbia:** Janine Bertram, David Bodenstein, Dale Brown, Susan Daniels, Jack Duncan, Dorsey Fuller, Robert Funk, Don Galloway, Charles Goldman, Paula Jorisch, Hon. Evan Kemp, Mark Lewis, Oral Miller, Howard Moses, Ralph Neas, John & Marcia Nelson, Mary Jane Owen, Alan Reich, Liz Savage, Harold Snider, Sylvia Walker, John Watson, Patricia Wright, **Delaware:** St. Advisory Council for the Coordination of Services to the Handicapped, Robert Piech, Denise Powell, Mary Straghan, Diane Tracy, **Florida:** Abilities Inc. of FL, Briarwood CIL, C-SAIL, CIL of Central FL, CIL of North FL, CIL of N.W. FL, Central FL Chapter PVA, FACIL, FL Council for Community Mental Health, FL Council of Handicapped Organizations, FL Rehab. Assn., Pensacola Pen Wheels/Pensacola Employ the Handicapped Council, SCAPH, Self Reliance CIL, Barbara Bernhart, Beverly Chapman, Jewell Ferguson, William Graham, Bruce & Margaret Harter, Allen Horton, Marc Kallins, David Mount, Jayne Orr, Jim Parrish, Jon Rossman, Stephen Rossman, Fran Tutunc, Ralph & Carla Von Fossen, **Georgia:** GA Rehab. Assn., Bernard Baker, Tamara Bibb, Cathy Bruce, Jim Cherry, Ben Freeman, Mark Johnson, Gail Love, Valencia Mathis, John Payne, Calvin Peterson, Doris Phillips, Jimmy Small, Eleanor Smith, Jesse Tyler, Janet Tyree, Marilyn Williams, Judy Winters, Van Younginer, **Hawaii:** HI Ctrs. for Independent Living, Rehab. Assn. of HI, Daniel Anderson, Hank Emerick, Judith Ishimoto, Erica Jones, Toshio Nishioka, Mark Obatake, **Idaho:** Moscow Public Transit, Stepping Stones, Mike Cherash, Dana Gover, Shawn & Randy Rochlin, **Illinois:** Access Living of Metro, Chicago, Advisory Bd. for Deaf/Blind Individuals, Agoos & Associates: Mental Health Profess., Alliance for the Mentally III of IL, Coalition of Citizens w/Disabilities in IL, Council for Disability Rights, Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, H.E. Commission Disabled & Seniors, Human Resources Development Institute, IL Assn. of Senior Citizens, IL Network of Centers for Independent Living, IL Rehab. Assn., IL School for the Deaf Alumni Assn., Network of IL Voters w/Disabilities, Polio Network of IL, United Post Polio Survivors, Marca Bristo, Terry Conour, John Daly, James DeJong, C.J. Dombrowski, Dawn Durbin, Lawrence Gorski, Charles Graham, Josephine Holzer, Sharon Johnson, Mercedes Rauen, Davie Stover, Terra Thomas, Alan Vest, **Indiana:** IN Univ. N.W. Student Body, Nat'l Spinal Cord Injury Assn., Calumet Region Chapter, Barbara Cope, Greg Fehrbach, Mary Lou Haines, Suellen Gopal Pati, Beth Quarles, Henry Schroeder, Dayton & Margaret Shafer, Patrick & Society of IA, Fair Housing for the Handicapped, IA Coalition for Persons w/Heelard, Joe & Mae Miller, Mervin & Karen Roth, Jon & Joyce Schneider, John & Central KS, Independence, Independent Connection/OCCCK, KS Assn. Ctrs. for IL, the Disabled, Three Rivers Resource LLC, Topeka IL Resource Ctr., **Kentucky:** Action w/Handicaps, KY Rehab. Assn., KY Rehab. Counseling Assn., Vincent Brosky, Agnes Kathy Williams, **Louisiana:** LA Coalition of Citizens w/Disabilities, Rehab. Institute Madan Kundu, Hon. Tim Stine, **Maine:** Hon. Thomas Andrews, Ronald Hanson, Metropolitan Balto Assn. for Children w/Learning Disabilities, David Capozzi, Fred Neil, Claude Stout, Ann Vinup, Fred Weiner, **Massachusetts:** ADLIB ILC, Cape Citizens w/Disabilities, Southeast CIL, Elmer Bartels, Kathryn & John Chappell, Michael Muehe, Andrea Schein, Marilyn Spivack, Vivienne Thomson, Laura Wagner, Assn. in MI, MI Commission on Handicapped Concerns, MI Head Injury Alliance, Griswold, Robert Horvath, Brian & Linda Morris, Len Sawish, Helen Schneiderman, Ebner, Keith Gann, Karen Grykiewicz, Lynette Knapp, William Malleris, Patrick & eppri: Coalition of Citizens w/Disabilities, MS Assn. of the Deaf, MS Head Injury of Citizens w/Disabilities in Greater St. Louis, Disabled Citizens Alliance for Independent Living, The Whole Person, Sheila Brashear, Douglas Bureleigh, Max & Colleen Starkloff, James Tuschler, **Montana:** Doug Amsteden, Bob Bruce, Julie Colleen Dougall, Dean Everitt, Iwan Hluchowekyj, Timothy Shaw, Melanie Zarp, **Nevada:** Jason Abercrombie, Ronald & Pauline Donoho, Karla McComb, Hon. Bob Miller, Stephen Shaw, **New Hampshire:** ARC of NH, Robert Dennis, Michael Jenkins, James Rezzarday, Larry Robinson, Maureen Scipione, Emery Stokes, **New Jersey:** NJ Rehab. Assn., Gitta Acton, Maryann Allacci, Louis & Rosaria Baldino, Elizabeth Boggs, Elaine & Peter Buchsbaum, Marian Burris, Deborah Davies, Heather Falcone, Brian Fitzgibbons, Mary Freeman, Carol Funk, Harold Grady, Michael & Deborah Grady, Karl Greiner, H.D. Hammar, Irene & Walt Howard, S.G. Janick, David Lazarus, Stuart Lipper, Ruth & Richard Lockwood, Lorri Luongo, Fran Maher, Amy Mansue, Walter McNeil, Carl Moore, Lorraine & Frank Nardi, Joyce Pachoyek, Fred & Roselynn Patterson, Karl Pfister, David Popiel, Mildred Powell, John Scagnelli, Louis Shapiro, Deborah Spitalnik, Kathy Sun, Frankie Uwkke, Debbra Wilson, **New Mexico:** Ruth Jones, Ralph Markward, Judy Myers, Ross Sweet, Larry Tapia, **New York:** Brooklyn Ctr. for Independence of the Disabled, Disabled in Action of Brooklyn, Disabled in Action of Greater Syracuse, Handicapped People of the Mohawk Valley, NY St. Coalition of People w/Disabilities, NY St. Advocate for the Disabled, Onondaga Council on Disabled, Onondaga Paraplegia Assn., Conway Anderson, Frances Berko, Daniel Boeck, Frank Bowe, Kenneth & Maria Dibble, Jesse Gamble, Darrell Jones, Michael Marge, Christina Masotti, Denise McQuade, Don Piron, Phyllis Rubinfeld, Frances Rugg, Marie Stark, **North Carolina:** Alliance of Disabled and Concerned Citizens, Barrier Free Environments, Eastern NC Spinal Cord Inj. Assn., Governor's Advocacy Council for Persons w/Disabilities, Learning How, Programs for Accessible Living, Spina Bifida Assn. of NC, David Wayne Dawson, Lockhart Follin-Mace, Kenneth Franklin, Ronald Mace, Deborah McKeithan, **North Dakota:** ND Rehab. Assn., Susan Danielson, Darrell Farland, Henry Henschel, Ferne Redding, Dale Sattler, **Ohio:** NHIF, OH Assn., OH Council of Churches, OH Governor's Council on People w/Disabilities, OH Rehab. Assn., PVA/Buckeye Chapter, Ability Ctr. of Greater Toledo, Elizabeth Aino, John Caprio, Eileen Daly, Joseph Kueste, Susan & James Lenahan, Karla & Bob Lortz, Fran McCaffrey, Betty Randof, George Randof, Paul & Lori Schroeder, Jerry Snyder, Merrilu Texler, David Williams, **Oklahoma:** OK Coalition of Citizens w/Disabilities, Total Independent Living Today, Bacon Suzetta, Sandy Beasley, Steve Brown, Jerry Dunlap, Joe Fallin, Helen Kutz, Ann Stalnaker, Roland Sykes, Brook & Jill Tarbel, Ralph White, **Oregon:** Access OR, Sandy & Bethann Kronick, Scott Lay, Eugene Organ, David Powell, Vikki Kennick, Joil Southwell, Tina Treasure, Glenn & Debra Yancie, **Pennsylvania:** Corner Stone Lawyers, Families United Seeking Excellence, Good Shepherd Rehab. Hospital, PA Coalition of Citizens w/Disabilities, PA Council on IL, PA Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, PA Rehab. Assn., Philadelphia Housing Consortium for Disabled Individuals, Widener School for the Physically Disabled, Jack Baland, Rosemary Barrett, Susan Beneman, Andrea Bogden, David Cohen, Joanne Cohen, Jane Dorval, Jim Eerlo, Homer Floyd, Thomas Gilhool, Joan Gipple, James Hence, Maggie Kuhn, Frank Laski, Hon. Sophie Masloff, Vicki McGinley, Ed Mezinsky, Jay Neuman, Carl & Rowena Odhner, Stephen Pennington, Mary Reahrman, Joseph Rogers, Ilene Shane, Sigl Shapiro, Jay Snyder, Lucy Spruill, Hon. Leonard Staisey, Connie Tarr, Hon. David Wentz, Keith Williams, Shelly Yanoff, Tony & Mary Lou Zappitelli, **Rhode Island:** Amy Brill, Sherry Campanelli, Hon. Kathleen Connell, Bob Cooper, Hon. Edward DiPrete, Nancy Husted-Jensen, Steven Kapalka, Edward Mello, William Messore, Hon. James O'Neil, Hon. Anthony Soloman, Elizabeth Wilson, **South Carolina:** Easter Seal Society of SC, SC Autism Society, SC Coalition of Handicapped Persons w/Disabilities, SC Head Injury Assn., Allen Corbett, Joseph Dusenbury, Bill & Jane East, Charles La Rosa, Hon. Heyward McDonald, Joseph Owens, Jack & Margaret Pratt, Louise Ravenel, Huey Walker, Lyman Whitehead, **South Dakota:** M/M Ken Gacke, Helen Hartmann, Donita Hunt, Dennis Schmitz, **Tennessee:** Tri-State Resource & Advocacy Corp., Sonia Auryong, Diane Coleman, Randall Dickman, Mary Lynn Fletcher, Michael Gibson, John Harris, Thomas Olin, Jacquelyn Page, Marilyn Youngberg, **Texas:** Coalition of Texans w/Disabilities, Dignidad, Igualdad y Oportunidad, El Paso Assn. for Children & Adults w/Learning Disabilities, SAILS, TX Rehab. Assn., Vaughn House, WTAH, Max Arrell, Kaye Bencke, Wayne & Sandra Brumley, Mary Bumpas, Carole Carsey, Thomas Carter, James Comstock-Galagan, Texana Conn, Larry Corru, Steve Carrier, Justin & Yoshiko Dart, Helen Ferguson, Lex & Joyce Frieden, Laurie Gerken, Scott Haynes, Bob Kafka, Jeff Kaufman, Jack Kishpaugh, Richard LaVallo, Kay Lambert, Linda Litowsky, Frank Lozano, Mary Jo Magruder, Barrett Markland, Steve Mayeux, Henry Miller, Thomas Morrison, Peg Nosek, Carole Patterson, Pat Pound, Eric Reed, Virginia Roberts, Ralph & Marilyn Rouse, Lynn Sanders, Diana Shisk, Dave Sloane, Judith Sokolow, William Spencer, Stephanie Thomas, Ray Vaughn, Roger Webb, Rita Webber, **Utah:** UT Governor's Committee on Employment of People w/Disabilities, UT Governor's Council for People w/Disabilities, UT Legislative Coalition for People w/Handicapped, UT Rehab. Assn., Judy Buffmire, James Eager, Grant Mack, Conway Maughan, Sherry Repscher, **Vermont:** VT Coalition of the Handicapped, Maude Chater, Rick Douglas, Tom Frank, Fay Lawson, David Mentasti, **Virginia:** Independence Resource Ctr., Jeanne Argoff, Robert Brabham, Hon. James Brady, Phil Calkins, Terence Carroll, Allen Clark, Frank DeGeorge, Ted & Mary Doremus, John Doyle, Mark Goldfarb, David Gray, Harry Hall, Monica Hall, Jim Havel, Paul Hearne, Ruth Lusher, Hon. Gordon Mansfield, Celene McWhorter, Kathleen Megivern, Sharon Mistler, Jerry O'Bryan, Theresa Preda, Cordelia Puitkammer, Doris Ray, Jill Robinson, Jay & Gwyneth Rochlin, Katie Rochlin, Joseph Romer, Janet Singer, Paul Wehman, Tony Young, **Washington:** Friends of the Committee, WA Assembly for Citizens w/Disabilities, Pamela Dowling, Paul Dziedzic, Margarita Hagan-Hawkins, Tobias Jean, Sharon Stewart Johnson, Ed Lane, Bonnie Larson, Marlee & John Naddy, Lanny Shuman, Carol & Ken Simkins, Paul Wysocki, **West Virginia:** Gretchen Anthony, Mary Kay Buchmelter, Susan Edwards, Robert Hall, Joseph Moriarty, Mike Oliverio, John Panza, Aaron Poff, Vicki Smith, **Wisconsin:** Mental Health Assn. of WI, WI Council on Developmental Disabilities, Kathryn Barry, Chad Crowley, Ellen Daly, Tom Diedrick, Ann Falconer, Dave Hall, Joseph Knipp, Susan Mancl, Gregg Miller, Joyce & Dick Pomo, Joan Sanzen, Beth Sween, Linda Vegoe, Jayn & William Wittenmyer, **Wyoming:** Woody Absher, Marion Cotterman, Phyllis Smith, Bob Wiederspahm

"I'm going to do whatever it takes to make sure the disabled are included in the mainstream They're not going to be left out anymore."

President George Bush