

March 13, 1989

TO: Senator Dole
FROM: Mo West
SUBJECT: CCD Briefing

The 101st Congress will consider a variety of legislative initiatives that impact on America's 43 million citizens with disabilities -- ranging from education to health care to civil rights.

You have agreed, to again sponsor with Rep. Coehlo, a briefing for Members of Congress and their staffs to discuss these critical issues. The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), a coalition of over 50 national consumer, provider and professional organizations representing persons with disabilities, will conduct this briefing today.

Persons with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities will discuss their views of federal programs and various pending legislative proposals. I have received an overwhelming reception from both House and Senate staff who plan to attend.

CCD is hopeful that you you will stop by with some brief introductory remarks, which I have prepared for you. I have worked with CCD for the past four years, their support and assistance has been extremely helpful in enacting sound disability policy.

I mentioned earlier, that C-SPAN may cover the briefing which would educate the nation on the abilities people with disabilities possess -- your attendance in the beginning will signal a strong message to the disability community of your sensitivity to the needs of disabled individuals and your continued active participation in forming disability policy.

SENATOR BOB DOLE
CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES BRIEFING
ROOM 2237 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
MARCH 13, 1989

WELCOME TO THE CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS WITH
DISABILITIES (CCD) BRIEFING. I AM HAPPY TO SPONSOR
THIS EVENT WITH REP. COEHLO, WHICH HAS BROUGHT SO
MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY, TO LEARN ABOUT A VARIETY
OF IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES THAT IMPACT ON
AMERICA'S 43 MILLION CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES.

THE 101ST CONGRESS WILL UNDERTAKE LEGISLATION
AFFECTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ENCOMPASSING
EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE AND CIVIL RIGHTS. I HOPE THIS
BRIEFING WILL MARK THE CONTINUATION OF A
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES,
CONGRESS AND THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

MANY THANKS GO TO THE CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES, RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING THIS EVENT TOGETHER. CCD HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN PROVIDING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THEIR STAFFS VALUABLE INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE IN SETTING DISABILITY POLICY. WE OWE ALOT TO THIS COALITION FOR THE MANY STRIDES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE PAST THREE CONGRESS'. OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, WAS LEGISLATION FROM THE

100TH CONGRESS WHICH SAW ENACTMENT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS RESTORATION ACT, THE FAIR HOUSING AMENDMENT ACT, AND THE TECHNOLOGY-RELATED ASSISTANCE ACT, TO NAME JUST A FEW. THESE LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE SUCCESSFUL, DUE IN A LARGE PART TO, THE EFFORTS OF THE COALITION.

YOU WILL HEAR TODAY FROM PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES AND PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES, FIRST HAND, THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF
VARIOUS FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
SERVICES MANDATED UNDER LAW. MOST IMPORTANT,
HOWEVER, PANELISTS, WILL PERSONALLY SHARE THE
IMPACT A DISABILITY HAS HAD IN THEIR LIFE. IF ONE
CHOOSES TO, ONE CAN, CAN INFLUENCE MUCH OF WHAT

OCCURS IN WASHINGTON IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS -- THIS
FORUM WILL SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO, HERE
AND NOW.

PRESIDENT BUSH AND VICE-PRESIDENT QUAYLE HAVE
PROMISED A KINDER, GENTLER, AMERICA AND I BELIEVE
THAT PROMISE WILL BE KEPT. AMERICA'S DISABLED
CITIZENS ARE PERHAPS OUR GREATEST RESOURCE OF
UNTAPPED POTENTIAL. WORKING TO OPEN SOCIETY TO

FULL PARTICIPATION BY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, WILL
IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE NOT ONLY FOR DISABLED
INDIVIDUALS, BUT FOR ALL AMERICANS. PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES ARE NOT A SMALL, UNIFORM MINORITY WITH
NARROW INTERESTS -- DISABILITIES KNOW NO
BOUNDARIES OR ECONOMIC CLASS -- MEMBERSHIP IS
OPEN TO ALL AND MOST OF US WHO LIVE OUR LIFESPAN
WILL JOIN THIS COMMUNITY SOONER OR LATER.

I AM CERTAIN THAT TODAY'S FORUM WILL ADDRESS
ISSUES PERTAINING TO COMPREHENSIVE CIVIL RIGHTS
LEGISLATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, THE
"MEDICAID HOME AND COMMUNITY QUALITY SERVICES
ACT," AND REAUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION SUCH AS THE
EDUCATION FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT AS
WELL AS THE CARL D. PERKINS VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
ACT, TO HIGHLIGHT JUST A FEW.

I COMMEND CCD FOR RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATING CONGRESSIONAL STAFF ON ISSUES AFFECTING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, -- FOR THE PRESENTERS HERE TODAY, KNOW BETTER THAN ANY OTHER, THE ABILITIES AND SELF DETERMINATION , PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES POSSESS. THE GREATEST DISABILITY TO OVERCOME, IS THAT OF THE ARCHAIC MISPERCEPTION THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE IN NEED OF SYMPATHY.

IT IS TIME FOR A SHARED EFFORT BY ALL OF US TO EXCEL AGAIN THIS CONGRESS. OPPORTUNITIES ARE LIMITED ONLY BY OUR OWN CAPACITY TO CHALLENGE AND

EMPOWER OURSELVES.