

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON

# DISABILITY

A private, non-profit organization



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ILYA ZASLAVSKY

Ilya Zaslavsky, 30, is a member of the Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR and a disability advocate.

Zaslavsky, who has a physical disability, is visiting the United States under the auspices of the Center for Democracy in the USSR through a grant from the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy. He will be in Washington (July 11-18) and New York (July 19, 20), discussing democratization in the Soviet Union and following up contacts he made in the disability field when he was here last September.

Zaslavsky, a textile research scientist, was elected to the Congress of People's Deputies from the Moscow Oktyabrsky District in March 1989, the voting district of Soviet President Gorbachev. In his election campaign, Zaslavsky spoke out on behalf of people with disabilities, elderly people and others whom he termed "the powerless".

In September 1989, Zaslavsky visited the United States at the invitation of the National Organization on Disability, a visit funded by USIA's International Visitor Program. He was welcomed on the floor of the U.S. Senate on September 7, when the Senate passed the Americans with Disabilities Act. Zaslavsky said he "only regretted that he could not add his vote," and he requested a copy of the bill in Russian as a possible model for use in the USSR.

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