

Health/Handicapped

June 7, 1978

Bill Brock, Chairman
Republican National Committee
301 ~~4~~^{1st} Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Bill:

As you will remember, the Republican Platform contains a plank on handicapped citizens which reads in part as follows:

Time after time, the paths are closed to the handicapped in education, employment, transportation, health care, housing, recreation, insurance, polling booths and due process of law. National involvement is necessary to correct discrimination in these areas. Individual incentive alone cannot do it.

Since we endorsed this position, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has issued regulations to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section 504 states that organizations receiving federal assistance cannot discriminate against a person on the basis of a handicapping condition. Largely through the Rehabilitation Act and the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, we are beginning to note improved opportunities for the disabled.

Handicapped persons number about 30 million, and compose an important group of voters. Since the RNC targets special emphasis on teen-agers, college students, Blacks, women, Hispanics, Jews, ethnics, senior citizens, and labor unions, I think we should also make similar attempts to attract voters. I look forward to learning your reaction to this suggestion.

Thanks for giving this matter your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE
United States Senator

BD:mwk