

Enabled Voices



An advocacy publication of Tri-County Independent Living

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May 9, 2007

Civil Disobedience by Disability Rights Activists in DC *Demonstrators Urge Support of "Community Choices Act"*



Disability rights advocates, in April 1977, participated in a month-long occupation of a federal building in San Francisco to demand the immediate signing of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Fast-forward to the same month, but in 2007 and in the nation's capitol. *"Disability Advocates Launch Action in DC"* said the headlines.

"...over 100 arrested." This time the cause is the right to live in your own home.

Over 500 disability advocates from across the country descended on DC on April 30 in support of federal legislation called the "Community Choices Act." The bill would make major changes in federal Medicaid laws to allow people with disabilities and seniors to have the choice of remaining in their own homes rather

than being placed in a nursing home or other institution. It would also add funding for this purpose and provide equal access to community-based attendant services and supports.

These activists occupied various offices of U.S. Congressional Representatives, as well as an office building driveway. It is estimated that over 100 were arrested in this protest, which was organized by American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today and ADAPT--a grassroots disability rights advocacy organization.

The Community Choices Act (Senate Bill 799) was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Iowa Senator Tom Harkin on March 7, 2007 and an identical bill (HR 1621) was introduced on March 21 in the House of Representatives by Rep. Danny K. Davis of Illinois. The list of co-sponsors for these two bills does not include anyone from California, so be sure to contact our Senators and Congressman to encourage their support of this legislation.

Senator Barbara Boxer, 501 I Street, Suite 7-600, Sacramento, CA 95814-7308, Tel: (916) 448-2787, Fax: (916) 448-2563 OR 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, Tel: (202) 224-3553, FAX: (909) 888-8613, TTY: (202) 224-4264, web site: www.boxer.senate.gov.

Senator Diane Feinstein, One Post Street, Suite 2450, San Francisco, CA 94104, Tel: (415) 393-0707, Fax: (415) 393-0710, TTY/TDD: (415) 249-4785, OR U.S. Senate, Hart Office Building, Room 331, Washington, DC 20510-0001, Tel: (202) 224-3841, Fax: (202) 228-3954, web site: www.feinstein.senate.gov.

Congressman Mike Thompson, Cannon House Office Bldng., Rm. 415, Washington, DC 20515, (202) 225-3311; **Local**: 317 3rd St., Ste. 1, Eureka, CA 95501 (707) 269-9595; Fax: (707) 269-9598; www.mikethompson.house.gov/

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Bill Hearings on May 14

Several noteworthy bills highlighted in past issues of *Enabled Voices* are set for hearings on Monday, May 14. They include the following:

SB 840—a single-payer health care coverage bill that is supported by the California Foundation of Independent Living Centers.

SB 945—would allow care providers to be authorized representatives for their IHSS care recipients for purposes of receiving notices of action and requesting hearings to challenge actions.

SB 692—would require background checks for In-home support service (IHSS) care providers, **but would charge the fee for it to the provider or care recipient.**

SB 868—is the bill competing with SB 692. It also requires IHSS care provider background checks **but would NOT require the care provider or recipient to pay for it.**

Be sure to let your elected officials know your feelings on these bills!

**TCIL: (707)
445-8404**



**Your Elected
Officials**

Senator Pat Wiggins, 10th and L Streets, State Capitol, Room 5035, Sacramento, CA 95814, Tel: (916) 651-4002, Fax: (916) 323-6958 OR 710 E Street, #150, Eureka, CA 95501, Tel: (707) 445-6508, web site: <http://dist02.casen.govoffice.com/>.

Senator Sam Aanestad, 200 Providence Mine Rd., Suite 108, Nevada City, CA 95959, Tel: (530) 470-1846 OR State Capitol, Room 2054, Sacramento, CA 95814, Tel: (916) 651-4004, web site: www.republican.sen.ca.gov, email: access at web site.

Assembly Member Patty Berg, 50 D Street, Suite 450, Santa Rosa, CA 95404, Tel: (707) 576-2526, Fax: (707) 576-2297, OR State Capitol, Room 4146, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 95249-0001, Tel: (916) 319-2001, Fax: (916) 319-2101, web site: www.democrats.assembly.ca.gov, email: access on web site.



**IMPOR-
TANT
DATES**

**Disability Capitol Action
Day--Wed., May 23,
Sacramento.**