



March 2008

April 2, 2008 Legislative Day Tasks and Talking Points on H.R. 3995

Tasks for those making Hill Visits:

1. Members of the House who have co-sponsored this bill should be educated as to why this is a very bad bill from the viewpoint of people with disabilities and the majority of the disability community. They should be urged to withdraw their co-sponsorship.
2. Members of the House who have not co-sponsored the bill should be congratulated and provided with information about why this bill is so vehemently opposed by the majority of the disability community.
3. Members of the Senate should be provided with information about why this bill is so vehemently opposed by the majority of the disability community and urged to not sponsor a similar bill in the Senate, or support H.R. 3995 should it pass the House of Representatives in any form.

List of cosponsors as of March 19, 2008:

COSPONSORS (20), ALPHABETICAL

Rep Boustany, Charles W., Jr. [LA-7]

Rep Cohen, Steve [TN-9]

Rep Gonzalez, Charles A. [TX-20]

Rep Lynch, Stephen F. [MA-9]

Rep McGovern, James P. [MA-3]

Rep Moran, James P. [VA-8]

Rep Platts, Todd Russell [PA-19]

Rep Shays, Christopher [CT-4]

Rep Stark, Fortney Pete [CA-13]

Rep Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [FL-20]

Rep Capuano, Michael E. [MA-8]

Rep Etheridge, Bob [NC-2]

Rep Larson, John B. [CT-1]

Rep Matsui, Doris O. [CA-5]

Rep Miller, Brad [NC-13]

Rep Paul, Ron [TX-14]

Rep Poe, Ted [TX-2]

Rep Shea-Porter, Carol [NH-1]

Rep Walberg, Timothy [MI-7]

Rep Woolsey, Lynn C. [CA-6]

Talking Points Against H.R. 3995:

- 1) Abuse and neglect of individuals with developmental disabilities is a deplorable part of American history.
- 2) Over the last 30 years disability policy has moved forward from institutionalization of individuals with disabilities to providing supports and services for these individuals to live in the community.
- 3) It is essential that Protection and Advocacy systems continue to have the broadest authority possible to ensure the protection of the rights of people with developmental disabilities to be free from abuse and neglect and fulfillment of their desire to live in the community.
- 4) Enactment of Representative Frank's bill will jeopardize the well-being of thousands of individuals with developmental and other disabilities by curtailing the ability of the P&A to protect these individuals from systematic problems causing abuse and neglect.
- 5) By allowing those that would prefer to speak on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities to have the final say, even if different than the individual's own desires, Representative Frank's bill restricts the civil and human rights of individuals with developmental disabilities.
- 6) Representative Frank's bill will step on the rights of many and stop the forward progress being made to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities who want to live in the community can do so.