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Americans with Disabilities Act

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July 28, 1998

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ANNIVERSARY EVENT

DATE: July 29, 1998
LOCATION: Roosevelt Room
TIME: 1:15-1:30 pm
FROM: Minyon Moore, Bruce Reed, and Gene Sperling

I. PURPOSE

To sign an Executive Memorandum directing federal agencies to increase public outreach and education about important requirements within the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Medicaid buy-in option within the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. This event is also an opportunity to commemorate the 8th anniversary of the historic Americans with Disabilities Act, which was signed into law on July 26, 1990, and to further your commitment to the Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities that you created this spring.

II. BACKGROUND

While the Americans with Disabilities Act makes it possible for millions of Americans to participate more fully in society, the unemployment rate among the 30 million working-age adults with disabilities continues to be significantly higher than that of the general population. For this reason, you signed an executive order in March establishing the Task Force on Employment of People with Disabilities. With Secretary Herman serving as Chair and Tony Coelho serving as Vice-Chair, the Task Force is charged with recommending policies to help increase the employment rate of adults with disabilities. Although the Task Force will not issue its first formal report until November, it already has identified actions that the Administration can take to begin reducing barriers to work. You will issue an Executive Memorandum tomorrow to direct these actions.

The Executive Memorandum will direct relevant agencies to take appropriate actions to expand public education and outreach about regulations within the ADA and the Medicaid buy-in option within the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Specifically, you will:

- Direct the Attorney General, the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to

expand public education about the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to employers, employees, and others whose rights may be affected -- including, in particular, small businesses and under-served populations.

- Direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to inform governors, state legislators, state Medicaid directors, consumer organizations, and others about the new Medicaid buy-in option enacted as part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. This new option provides Medicaid coverage for individuals with disabilities who, because of their earnings, would not qualify for Medicaid under current law.

You also will announce your strong commitment to working with Senators Kennedy and Jeffords to pass affordable and feasible legislation that helps people with disabilities maintain their health care coverage and return to work. This legislation would allow people with disabilities who return to work to keep their Medicare coverage, eliminating a provision in current law that often requires people with disabilities to choose between work and health insurance. The legislation also would increase the number of people with disabilities able to buy into Medicaid by eliminating the requirement that they have income below 250 percent of poverty and giving states additional resources and bonuses to offer this return-to-work option. Although a prior version of the Kennedy-Jeffords bill was not affordable -- costing \$5 billion over 5 years -- we have worked hard with the Senators' staff to bring the pricetag down to about \$1 billion.

III. PARTICIPANTS

PRE-BRIEF PARTICIPANTS

Bruce Reed
Minyon Moore
Chris Jennings
Diana Fortuna

EVENT PARTICIPANTS

YOU

Secretary Alexis Herman
Tony Coelho

*The audience will consist of approximately 40 Members of the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities and representatives from disability advocacy organizations.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Closed press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- * Prior to your arrival, Tony Coelho will deliver welcoming remarks and introduce Secretary Herman.
- * Secretary Herman will deliver remarks.
- * **YOU** will enter the room and deliver brief remarks.
- * **YOU** will sign the executive memorandum.
- * **YOU** will work a ropeline and then depart.

VI. REMARKS

Talking points to be provided by Speechwriting.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- * List of attendees.

ADA ANNIVERSARY EVENT ATTENDEES

1. **Paul Marchand**, Director of Governmental Affairs for the ARC and Chair of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
2. **James Brady**, President of the National Brain Injury Association
Mary Dixon (attendant)
3. **Gina McDonald**, President National Council on Independent Living
4. **John Kemp**, CEO Very Special Arts
5. **Justin Dart, Jr.**
Shinya Suganuma (Attendant)
6. **Paul Edwards**, President of American Council for the Blind
7. **Daniel Fisher**, President of National Empowerment Center
8. **Gordon Mansfiel**, CEO Paralyzed Veterans Association
9. **Alan Reich**, CEO National Organization on Disability
Mary Dolan (attendant)
10. **Linda Anthony**, President Pennsylvania Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities
11. **Jeanette Harvey**, CEO United Cerebral Palsy Association
12. **I. King Jordan**, President Gallaudet University
13. **Wade Henderson**, Executive Director Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
14. **Joseph Romer**, Executive Vice President of Public Affairs, National Easter Seals Society