

FOIA MARKER

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ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] 1993

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 8, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR JOAN BAGGETT, MARK GEARAN, MARCIA HALE AND ALEXIS
HERMAN

FROM: Mike Lux

SUBJECT: Attached

Attached is a letter describing an upcoming luncheon hosted by the newly formed Bush Medal Award Committee which will recognize President Bush's "historic role in the evolution of civil rights for people with disabilities," and which will also celebrate the third anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It seems that Bush will be taking a leadership role in these issues.

As I have indicated before, I think it is crucial that the President do an event celebrating the third anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, in addition to rescheduling the meeting with disability leadership originally scheduled for June 2. (Attached are copies of both scheduling requests.) Although I realize that the leadership meeting will most likely be rescheduled for August, I think it would be helpful to have a date set before July 26 in order to assure the community that the meeting will in fact occur. Our relations with this constituency have always been tense, and given Bush's decision to take credit for the ADA, we shouldn't allow things to get any worse.

The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR)

1333 Moursund, Houston, Texas 77030-3405
In the Texas Medical Center
Telephone (713) 799-5000, 797-5790 (TDD)
Fax (713) 799-7095

JUN 30 1993



June 28, 1993

Ms. Marca Bristo, President
Access Living
Center for Independent Living
310 South Peoria Street, Suite 201
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Ms. Bristo:

I am pleased to invite you, on behalf of the Bush Medal Award Committee, to join a small group of disability advocates and friends of President Bush for lunch in Kennebunkport on July 30, 1993. The purpose of this luncheon is to celebrate the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and to recognize President Bush's historic role in the evolution of civil rights for people with disabilities throughout the world.

On this occasion, the very first Bush Medal will be awarded to President Bush. The medal, which portrays President Bush and denotes his role in the passage of ADA, has been especially created by prominent sculptor David Deming. In the future, the medal will be awarded annually by the Committee to individuals or groups which have made historic contributions to the empowerment and independence of people with disabilities.

The luncheon on July 30 will be held at The Colony Inn, Ocean Avenue and King's Highway, Kennebunkport, Maine, from 12 noon until 2:30 p.m. Dress will be casual. Chef Strong will prepare a selection of entrees for this event. A modest contribution of \$50 per person will be used to underwrite the cost of this event.

I hope you can join us for this momentous occasion. I have attached an RSVP letter which must be returned no later than July 15, 1993, in order to reserve space at the luncheon. In the event that you would like to take full advantage of being in Kennebunkport by spending a few relaxed days there, I have attached a list of recommended Bed & Breakfast Inns for your convenience. Please feel free to call me if I can provide you with further information.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lex Frieden'.

Lex Frieden
Administrator
The Bush Medal Award Committee

Schedule Request

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

7/6/93

____ ACCEPT

____ REGRET

____ PENDING

TO:

Marcia Hale
Assistant to the President and Director
of Scheduling and Advance

FROM:

Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President and Director
of Public Liaison

REQUEST:

Meeting with the Administration
appointees with disabilities, followed
by a reception celebrating the third
anniversary of the Americans with
Disabilities Act in the State Dining
Room.

BACKGROUND:

This is a critically important day in
the disability community; Senator Harkin
and the DNC also feel strongly about
doing an event on this day.

A briefing with the Administration
appointees with disabilities would occur
preceding the reception. This will
provide an opportunity for the President
to meet his appointees and to be briefed
on issues of concern to people with
disabilities that pertain to the
Americans with Disabilities Act.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION:

A meeting with the leadership of various
disability groups was scheduled for June
2, and then cancelled. It has not been
rescheduled.

DATE AND TIME:

July 26th; afternoon.

DURATION:

Approximately one hour.

LOCATION:

The Oval Office for the briefing and the
State Dining Room for the reception.

PARTICIPANTS:

For the briefing:

Marca Bristo; Chairperson, National
Council on Disability

Judy Heumann; Assistant Secretary of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, Department of Education

Paul Steven Miller; Director of Disability Outreach, White House Office of Presidential Personnel

Bobby Simpson; Commissioner of Rehabilitation Service, Department of Education

Fernando Torres-Gil; Commissioner of Aging, Department of Health and Human Services

List of participants for the reception to be provided; a maximum of 200.

OUTLINE OF EVENTS:

A 15-30 minute meeting with the Administration appointees with disabilities in the Oval Office.

The participants would then join those already in the State Dining Room.

The President enters, and makes remarks on the importance of the Americans with Disabilities Act and its enforcement as the key to integrating all people with disabilities, linking this to the President's legislative priorities.

The President does a receiving line and exits.

REMARKS REQUIRED:

Speech to be provided by Communications, in addition to a briefing by Office of Public Liaison.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

Pool press during remarks in State Dining Room.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Schedule Proposal

5/4/93

ACCEPT

REGRET

PENDING

TO: Marcia Hale
Assistant to the President and Director
of Scheduling and Advance

FROM: *Spent* Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President and Director
of Public Liaison

REQUEST: For the President to meet with leaders
from the disability community.

PURPOSE: To demonstrate commitment to issues
affecting people with disabilities, and
to show appreciation for those who
supported the President's election.

BACKGROUND: The politics of the disability community
are complicated and often volatile.
During the campaign, leaders on both the
national and the grassroots level were
periodically disappointed with the
perceived lack of inclusion of people
with disabilities in Presidential
speeches and events.

Although we have done meetings with
representatives from this community,
particularly with the health care task
force, including Ira Magaziner, it is
important that the President personally
show his commitment by doing a meeting
with a group of leaders that we will
select.

The community is growing more anxious,
and I believe that a meeting with the
President will prevent a problematic
situation from developing.

DATE AND TIME: Sometime before the health care plan is
announced, within the next two weeks.

DURATION: 30 - 45 minutes.

LOCATION: Roosevelt Room.

PARTICIPANTS: List to be provided, approximately twenty participants.

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: Participants will be escorted into room, followed by informal dialogue with the President.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Talking points and background briefing will be provided by Public Liaison.

MEDIA COVERAGE: Closed to the press; WH photographer only.

RECOMMENDED BY: Office of Public Liaison, HHS, and the DNC.

CONTACT: Mike Lux, Special Assistant to the President for Public Liaison, x2930.

July 1, 1993

Dear Mr. President.

As leaders of the disability community we are writing to follow-up on our letter of June 22 concerning the need for a meeting with you in the near future. We request that our meeting be rescheduled to a date on or near the July 26th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. **We strongly support the suggestion that the meeting be held in conjunction with other events marking the anniversary of ADA.** We hope any events planned to commemorate this anniversary will include a substantive meeting with you.

We need voters with disabilities to help garner support for your/our legislative agenda, including the budget reconciliation act. We urge you to send a strong and unequivocal signal to our nation that you and your Administration support the civil rights of people with disabilities. People around the country will be celebrating "Disability Independence Day" on the anniversary of the ADA. They would regard a meeting with disability leaders on that date as a positive symbol of your commitment to support the civil rights of people with disabilities. We look forward to meeting with you soon to discuss disability issues.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mike Auberger (America Disabled for Attendant Programs Today)
Judi Chamberlin (National Association of Psychiatric Survivors)
Fred Fay (Disability Rights In Voter Empowerment)
Denise Figueroa (National Council on Independent Living)
Jim Gashel (National Federation of the Blind)
Bob Kafka (America Disabled for Attendant Programs Today)
Don Galloway (Disabled, But Able To Vote)
Ed Roberts (World Institute on Disability)
Pat Wright (Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund)

cc: Marca Bristo, Justin Dart, Debbie Fine, Judy Heumann, Mike Lux,
Paul Miller, Bob Sevigny, Bobby Simpson, Max Starkloff, Fernando Torres-
Gil