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Subgroup/Office of Origin: Domestic Policy Council
Series/Staff Member: Diana Fortuna
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 12024
FolderID:

Folder Title:
ADAPT [Americans Disabled Attendant Programs Today]/CASA [Community Attendant Services Act]

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S	97	2	10	3

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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001. letter	David Yassky to Election-Day Team; RE: Political (1 page)	00/00/0000	Personal Misfile
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Diana Fortuna
OA/Box Number: 12024

FOLDER TITLE:

ADAPT [Americans Disabled Attendant Programs Today]/ CASA [Community
Attendant Services Act]

2007-0143-F
db4489

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Mr. Michael Auburger
National Organizer, ADAPT
201 South Cherokee Street
Denver, Colorado 80223

Dear Mr. Auburger:

Thank you for your recent letter outlining ADAPT's concerns regarding personal assistance services (PAS) and other disability related issues. I would like to use this opportunity to review the Department's philosophy and accomplishments in this area, as well as to give you specific answers to your questions.

First and foremost, the Clinton Administration shares your commitment to improving and expanding community based long-term supports. In 1992, Governor Clinton said, "I support efforts to make affordable personal assistance services available to available to Americans with disabilities. We must ensure that all people have the opportunity to live independent lives. People who have disabilities and have a need for personal assistance services should have maximum control over the care they receive. Personal assistance services must be consumer-driven -- they must meet the needs and desires of the user, not the dictates of the supplier."

Nowhere has the Administration's commitment to long-term supports and PAS been more evident than the health care reform debate. The centerpiece of the long-term care component of the Health Security Act (HSA) was a major expansion in personal assistance services. While a comprehensive health care reform package was not enacted by the 103rd Congress, our bill contributed to greater public awareness of PAS issues. Indeed, almost every health care proposal under consideration last year included a community based long-term support component. **Thanks to ADAPT and other representatives of the disability community, working with the Administration and Congress, the need for expanded, consumer directed PAS has been placed firmly on the table.**

The President indicated his continued commitment to long-term supports and PAS in his State of the Union Address. An initiative to assist persons with disabilities is one of the health reform steps he believes Congress can and should take this year. Even without reform, several promising initiatives are currently underway in the Administration and at HHS:

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- **White House Disability Policy Review.** Carol Rasco of the President's Domestic Policy Council and Alice Rivlin of the Office of Management and Budget are coordinating a top to bottom review of the Administration's disability programs and policies. The White House Disability Policy Review group has established a series of subgroups to look closely at the federal government's programs and services for people with disabilities. We want to see how these programs work, how they fit together, and do some thinking about short and long range changes to improve the programs and make them more consumer-responsive. The leaders of this review include senior Administration officials, many of whom have first hand experience with disabilities. The subgroups are meeting regularly and beginning to develop policy options.
- **Office of ASPE Research.** The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation has funded a survey of PAS consumers, workers and case managers in California, to compare quality and consumer and worker satisfaction across different modes of PAS delivery. We anticipate a final report on this project in late 1996. ASPE, with the health Care Financing Administration, is planning a significant demonstration of feasibility and effectiveness of cash to buy and managed their own PAS services, instead of funding agencies to provide the services. In addition, ASPE staff are developing a more detailed research agenda that will address other significant aspects of PAS. If you would like to discuss these studies in more detail, you may contact Robyn Stone, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Disability, Aging and Long-Term Care, ASPE, Humphrey Building, Room 424E, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201.
- **HCFA Developments.** The Health Care Financing Administration has made progress on two important rules that will have a significant impact on people who receive Medicaid services, including many who currently live in nursing homes and ICFs/MR. First, in August 1994, HCFA published a regulation which will allow states greater latitude to expand their community based long-term support programs. Second, HCFA plans to issue a proposed rule that modifies community based Medicaid personal care services by: (1) eliminating the need for supervision by a nurse; (2) removing the mandate that a doctor prescribe the need for services; (3) allowing services to be provided outside of the person's home; and, (4) permitting services to be provided by anyone except a member of the recipient's family. I encourage you and other members of ADAPT to review this proposed rule when it is published; we will welcome your comments.

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- **Administration on Children and Families/Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD).** An exciting PAS development is the recent approval of a joint proposal of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities and the Office of Family Assistance to fund a research and demonstration project examining the efficacy of training and placing AFDC recipients to serve as personal assistants and other related paraprofessionals. ADD's University Affiliated Program at the University of Southern Mississippi and the Atlantis Independent Living Center in Denver, Colorado are known to have already developed possible models for study.

Through its Projects of National Significance program, the Administration on Developmental Disabilities also is funding a series of projects on consumer directed PAS. In addition, for the past two years, ADD has operated an Interagency group to coordinate and oversee PAS related policy and research. The group devoted most of its work toward health care reform activities. Plans are underway to reconfigure the group to target other short and long range reforms aimed at expanding and improving PAS. For more details, or to share your own thoughts, you may contact Pat Laird, Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Humphrey Building, Room 321D, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201.

- **National Council on Disability.** I would also encourage you to work with the National Council on Disability to raise some of the research and policy concerns ADAPT has articulated. From her involvement in health care reform, I know Marca Bristo, the Council's Chair Person, is very interested in many of the issues raised in your letter. Speed Davis is the Acting Executive Director. His address is: National Council on Disability, 1331 F Street, NW, Suite 1050, Washington, DC 20004.
- **National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR).** As you are probably aware, NIDRR (a component of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education) funds independent research on PAS as well as research and training centers related to disability issues. You may wish to contact Betty Jo Berland, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-2572 for more details.

While we all wish that this year would have marked the start of the implementation of comprehensive health reform, including a dramatic expansion of PAS, we are proud of our progress in addressing issues of concern to people with disabilities. Let me now respond to the specific points in your letter:

- **Regional Forums.** Throughout the debate on health care reform, town meetings and rallies were held across the country to discuss all aspects of this critical issue. Since President Clinton's long-term care proposal included an extensive PAS program, we were able to hear from many people on that subject. Again, what we heard, and what members of Congress heard too, is that most people want to get the supports they

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need at home, in the community, and they want to direct and control their own services. We encourage ADAPT to continue to work with us to ensure that the message is not lost.

- **ADAPT's Certain Death Awards.** After you shared this list with me I forwarded it to HCFA staff. They checked into each facility on the list and provided me with an in-depth report on the survey and licensure status of each facility. I learned that most of these facilities did have deficiencies in a number of areas. We continue to monitor their correction plans, compliance with the regulations and their state licensure status. Nevertheless, I recognize that ADAPT's list has likely changed since the last time you sent it to me. This direct input from people who use Medicaid services is very helpful. Please keep us apprised as you update the list so that we can continue to investigate these facilities.
- **Proposals for the 104th Congress.** You ask what proposals the Administration has developed for a national PAS program for the 104th Congress. As noted above, the President clearly indicated in his State of the Union Address that he would support expansion of long-term supports.

In addition, we continue to develop proposals to improve community based services and to make services more consumer responsive. For example, we are exploring a legislative proposal amending the Medicaid statute to allow consumers to receive cash or vouchers instead of personal care services; thus, people could manage their own services and hire, train, and supervise their own assistants. At the same time, HHS is examining other administrative/research mechanisms to allow states to waive Medicaid rules to cash out personal care benefits.

- **HCFA Activities.** In addition to the rules described above, HCFA staff are currently working on a series of recommendations to improve community based long-term care services. The group considering these proposals is expected to report to the Administrator of HCFA in the next few weeks.
- **Redirecting Funds From Institutions to the Community.** The Administration's policy is to continue to provide opportunities for states to invest more in community care. We will continue to encourage community based services within current law, whenever possible.

We do not have statutory authority to mandate that states expand community services and phase down or phase out institutions. However, the growth of both the waiver program and the personal care option under Medicaid indicates that states are highly motivated to do so on their own. In the case of large ICFs/MR, for instance, some states have phased them out completely, and many others have declared their intention to do so.

Page 5 - Mr. Michael Auberger

- **Involving ADAPT in Long-Term Care Discussions.** As you know, ADAPT and numerous other groups advocating on behalf of people with disabilities have been consistently involved in HHS and Administration discussions related to long-term supports. For instance, we welcomed the constructive suggestions which were provided by consumers with disabilities during the health reform discussion; e.g., the

Page 5 - Mr. Michael Auberger

idea of adding a consumer advisory group to the long-term care proposal came directly from the disability community, as did the tax credit for out of pocket PAS expenditures. I personally enjoyed the opportunity to meet with you and your colleagues during your Washington visit in 1993. We continue to need and welcome your input.

Finally, I applaud ADAPT members for their convictions in raising public consciousness of issues related to people with disabilities. Please continue to work with us as we strive to meet our joint goal of moving toward a world that respects the dignity and independence of all people, regardless of disability.

Sincerely,

Donna E. Shalala

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

To: DIANA

Draft response for POTUS
and forward to CHR by: _____

Draft response for CHR by: _____

Please reply directly to the writer
(copy to CHR) by: _____

Please advise by: _____

Let's discuss: _____

For your information: _____

Reply using form code: _____

File: _____

Send copy to (original to CHR): _____

Schedule ? : ☐ Accept ☐ Pending ☐ Regret

Designee to attend: _____

Remarks: PLEASE SEE JEREMY

ABOUT THIS
ORIG BACK TO
CHR



ADAPT

FREE OUR PEOPLE

ADAPT

Bruce C. Vladeck, Administrator
Health Care Financing Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Bldg - 314G
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington D.C. 20201

March 10, 1995

Dear Mr. Vladeck:

ADAPT, American Disabled for Attendant Programs is a grassroots disability rights organization advocating for reform of our current long term care delivery system.

Our current long term care system has an institutional bias that unnecessarily forces people with disabilities, regardless of age, into nursing homes or large ICF-MR facilities.

The Health Care Financing Administration has contributed to this bias by promulgating rules and regulations that allow institutions to flourish in this country.

ADAPT will be in the Washington, D.C. area from May 14th through May 18th advocating for fundamental changes in our long term care system. We want to meet with you to discuss proactive steps that HCFA can take to redirect the priorities and funding of the current long term care system.

ADAPT wants to discuss the steps you CAN take to change the institutional bias of the delivery system. We do not want to discuss excuses why you CAN'T, as Secretary Shalala and others have done in the past. If you believe there are real reasons something can not be done, we want specific legislative or regulatory reasons why our long term care system cannot change in the specific ways suggested.

Issues we want to discuss include:

- 1) Redirecting current institutional service funds to home and community-based attendant services.
- 2) Changing the match rate states pay to draw down federal dollars to favor home and community-based services over institutional services.

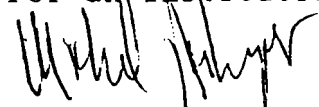
- 3) Rewriting Home Health, Personal Care option and Home and Community waiver policies, rules, regulations and program design that inhibit the delivery of home and community-based attendant services.
- 4) Creating rules to make it more difficult to place an individual in an institution.
- 5) Freezing the number of nursing home beds available in the country.
- 6) Designing and implementing an ADAPT/HCFA initiative to demonstrate consumer control attendant services using both the agency and individual provider models.
- 7) HCFA's supporting the Community Attendant Services Act.

We are tired of lip service.

After waiting almost a year-and-a-half Secretary Shalala finally responded to our demands on March 7, 1995. The response was less than inspiring. Instead of including ADAPT in discussions on long term care issues as Shalala had promised to do in May of 1993, HHS has detailed a list of what it is doing without even an excuse for why we were not involved. Shalala then referred us to various people to get an update on what they are doing. The response was patronizing and without real substance. The bottom line is that nothing is changing.

Only by meeting can we resolve these issues, but it must be a real discussion. Please respond by April 1, 1995.

For an Institution Free America,



Michael Auberger
National Organizer

cc: Secretary Donna Shalala
Carol Rasco
Sally Richardson
Senator Bob Dole
Senator Tom Daschle
Speaker Newt Gingrich
Representative Dick Gephardt

Bill Summary & Status for the 104th Congress

Item 2 of 11

PREVIOUS BILL | NEXT BILL
PREVIOUS BILL:ALL | NEXT BILL:ALL
NEW SEARCH | HOME | HELP

H.R.4250

SPONSOR: Rep Gunderson, (introduced 09/27/96)

TITLE(S):

☐ **OFFICIAL TITLE AS INTRODUCED:**

A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit a State the option of covering community-based attendant services under the Medicaid program.

STATUS: Floor Actions

NONE

STATUS: Detailed Legislative History

House Action(s)

Sep 27, 96:

Referred to the House Committee on Commerce.

Oct 4, 96:

Referred to the Subcommittee on Health and Environment.

STATUS: Congressional Record Page References

09/28/96 Introductory remarks on Measure (CR E1803)

COMMITTEE(S):

☐ **COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERRAL:**

House Commerce

☐ **SUBCOMMITTEE(S):**

Hsc Health and the Environment

*Please send copies;
to people listed above
(Fax to Bruce*

Vladeck @

690.6262)

(ph 690.6726)

FAX

NANCY ANN MIN 395-7289

AMENDMENT(S):

NONE

SUBJECT(S):

☐ **INDEX TERMS:**

Social security	Caregivers
Community health services	Congress
Congressional reporting requirements	Health policy
Home care services	Medicaid
Medical care	Medicine
Public assistance programs	Welfare

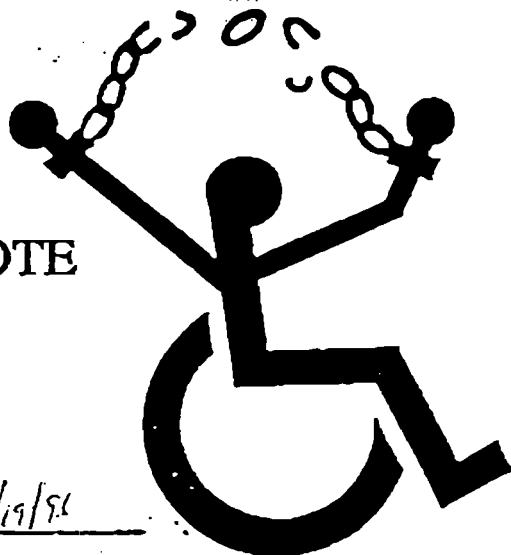
COSPONSOR:

Rep Gingrich - 09/27/96

DIGEST:

(AS INTRODUCED)

Amends title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to permit States the option of covering community-based attendant services.



FAX NOTE

ADAPT of Texas
1319 Lamar Sq DR #101
Austin, TX 78704
512/442-0252
512/442-0522 fax

Date: 12/19/96To: Michael Ambrose, Gina McDonald, Justin Davis, Fred FayeBetty Oyle, Bill WhiteFrom: ADAPTTotal number of pages sent (including cover sheet) 3

If you do not receive all pages call: 512/442-0252

Note: Looking forward to a production meetingFrom our People!

Carol:

Attached is the piece from Secretary Shalala and HCFA that Shumway and Nerney were so impressed with. It basically articulates principles about the importance of home and community-based services and allowing choice for people with disabilities. It directs HCFA's regional offices to work with states that want to make this more of a reality.

Diana

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

"Opportunity is critical to what we have to do as a nation to meet the great challenges we face and to move forward into the next century...We will not allow Americans with disabilities to be kept from realizing their dreams by closed doors or narrow minds."

President Bill Clinton

July 26, 1995

President Clinton came to Washington with a plan to put people first by making the government more accountable and accessible to all Americans, including those with disabilities. From the White House to every federal agency, this Administration has demonstrated an unprecedented commitment to address the concerns of Americans with disabilities. The President is committed to supporting the 49 million Americans with disabilities in their efforts to exercise their full rights and responsibilities, to live as independently as possible and to be productive throughout their lives.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- **Fighting Discrimination:** Under President Clinton, federal agencies have vigorously enforced the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and other critical civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities in schools, workplaces and public areas across the nation. President Clinton strongly opposes attempts to weaken these laws.
- **Protecting Health Care:** The Clinton Administration refuses to go backwards on health care coverage for Americans with disabilities and has rejected proposals to end the Medicaid guarantee to meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities.  President Clinton has preserved Medicaid coverage for 6 million persons with disabilities, including 1 million children. Without Medicaid, many families would have to impoverish themselves to pay for a child's medical care, give up their jobs to stay home to care for a child or seek placement in an institution. Medicaid is often the only form of health care available to people with disabilities and allows many children and adults to receive services at home rather than in institutions.
- **Improving Education for Children with Disabilities:** President Clinton is fighting to increase the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's focus on educational results for children and cutting unnecessary paperwork so that more time can be spent on teaching and learning. The Administration has recommended a 12% increase above the 1996 funding level for the basic state grant program and opposes weakening the guarantee of a right to education for children with disabilities.
- **Increasing Home and Community-Based Programs:** The Clinton Administration's flexibility in granting state waivers has spurred an increase in home and community-based services.  As a result, the number of people with developmental or cognitive disabilities served in home and community waiver programs nearly doubled to 122,000 in 1994.

- **Support for Families:** President Clinton fought for and enacted the Family and Medical Leave Act making workplaces more accommodating for many families that include a child or adult with a disability. In 1995, the President vetoed a budget bill that would have significantly cut cash assistance to most families with disabled children on Social Security -- families who are struggling to care for a child at home and face extra costs for home modifications, equipment and income lost because a parent is unable to work full-time.
- **Increasing Access:** By enacting the National Voter Registration Act and the Telecommunications Reform Act, President Clinton has made voting easier and communications technology more accessible for Americans with disabilities.
- **Transportation and Housing:** The Clinton Administration is helping to connect people with disabilities to employment, educational opportunities and a full range of public activities by ensuring that Americans with Disabilities Act and Fair Housing Act requirements for accessible bus and rail transit systems, paratransit services and housing are fully implemented.
- **Employment of People with Disabilities:** The Clinton Administration is offering individuals with disabilities the opportunity to increase their independence through rehabilitation services and work incentive programs.
- **Appointees with Disabilities:** The President has appointed an impressive group of people with disabilities to high-level policy-making positions, including many people prominent in the disability community. Many of these appointments are to key positions that are not directly related to disability issues.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

- Under President Clinton, federal agencies will continue to vigorously enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act with a balanced approach that emphasizes voluntary compliance wherever possible.
- The President has proposed a balanced budget that maintains meaningful health benefits for people with disabilities and supports insurance reforms to prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage because of pre-existing conditions.
- President Clinton is committed to expanding employment options for people with disabilities and challenging all Americans to understand that people with disabilities can contribute to this country when given access to the workplace, health care, community services and technology.
- The Clinton Administration will work to maintain a strong Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for children with disabilities and to improve educational results for students with disabilities.

- ① Rhoda - copy of notice
fax 223-0409
- ② Arlene Mayerson 510.644.2555
INS problems
Pat Wright, Steve Rosenbaum
- ③ Monahan @ went out Monday;
paid for 50/50 admin/entitlement
\$ gone; approp'd to cont.
evals

To: Alexis Herman
ASAP

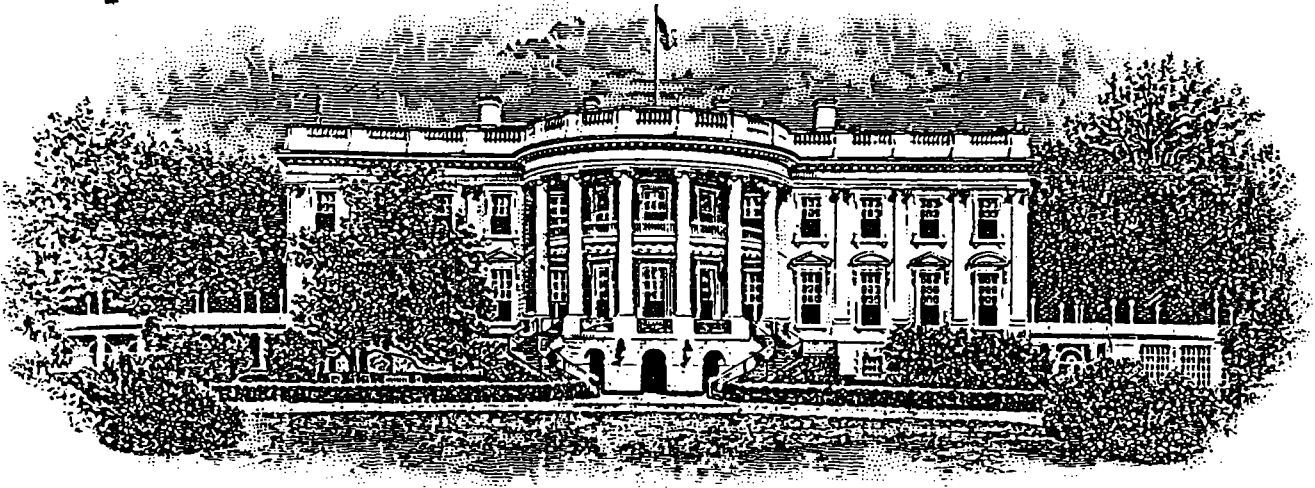
- ② Ledefri - Cade + Gwen Dins
- eventually approp'd 456
issues w/ky out
paper letter this wk
She was fine
(Jack??)

FR: CAROL RASCO 216.615.7500
DIANA FORTUNA Rm 1119

456 - 2249 ✓ ⑤ KBond on agenda?
260-0370

Attached is disability accomplishments
piece. We have also done Kennedy-Rosenbaum
+ parity for mental health services.
3 page fax

The White House



DOMESTIC POLICY

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

TO: _____

FAX NUMBER: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

FROM: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): _____

COMMENTS: _____

Mike Anberger - ADAPT -
Marva

CASA -

Justin says there is a letter
just signed by President

saying he won't rest until

all who want to leave

Institutions ~~will~~ get

Services they need

HCR
Cold bed
Whores expansion
No student auth. to mandate comm. p. instit ↓



Alexis
fax - 404-873-
4396

Bob Kafka of ADAPT
called Justin from jail.

- 1) in process of reg's wh pol came
- 2) always follow reg procedure
w/ gps
- 3) WH official on way
- 4) fax most recent accomp
document

~~W/~~ Lisa Davis, Press

~~W/~~

Letter - Craig on w/ plane

5:50pm:

Nancy Ann - in meeting,

↳ needed more specifics
from Diana.

↳ 5-9153

✗
↳ call →

Sarah/ Bianchi

Diana:

6:05pm.

→ Becky Esle called again.
please call.

→ Judy Heuman just called
Again & recommended the call
Be "short & sweet" & get off.

Not done
cont me to
wk
She will
intg to / discl
including them

7-370-1329
foolish to specify
date

530-1387

1-800

759

8888

Rm 888-9834

Bill W

615-329-2001

or 2557
(no rm)

5:30p.

WIF 329-2557
Bill White

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO: Diana

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY- ☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY-

Judy Heuman

OF (Organization)

205-5465 (w)

☐ PLEASE PHONE ► ☐ FTS ☐ AUTOVON

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN ☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL ☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

H: 332-5497

RECEIVED BY	DATE	TIME
		5:45p

50363-111 NSN 7540-00-634-4018 OPTIONAL FORM 363 (Rev. 1-94)
*U.S. G.P.O.:1994-300-891/00003 Prescribed by GSA

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO: DF

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY- ☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY-

Becky

OF (Organization)

☒ PLEASE PHONE ► ☐ FTS ☐ AUTOVON

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN ☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL ☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

- page when off
the call
(in TN: / 909-9343
(423))

RECEIVED BY	DATE	TIME
		5:35

50363-111 NSN 7540-00-634-4018 OPTIONAL FORM 363 (Rev. 1-94)
*U.S. G.P.O.:1994-300-891/00003 Prescribed by GSA

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Diana Fortuna
OA/Box Number: 12024

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Emb re this
2 wks - profoundly outrageous

East Rm - W4

- dealt w/ this - wait rest until all who wt to lv instt until get svcs they need

496-5061
not get 7 select
1st mtg

Fred Fay
508-371-0992

Howard

Email
1-888-324-7868

Auberger

PAS 615

not getting anywhere Thurs

Yoshiko -
216-615-7500

Just say how mtg at ADAPT didn't need to do it / was there just end'd p -

Cld he gotten mtg w/o this
PAS legisl. - consistent w/ past efforts
- w/o Congress
- work on that

what recommend
who else on call

budget process
recommend

205-5465

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

21-Oct-1996 10:22pm

TO: justice
FROM: owner-justice

To Alexis Herman
Fr Carol Rascor
Diana Fortuna

SUBJECT: Clinton to Disability Leaders

Justice For All

jfa@mailbot.com

2 more pages
that may be
helpful

JFA is pleased to share the following letter from
President Bill Clinton to our national network
of disability rights activists:

Clinton/Gore 96
October 8, 1996

Dear Disability Rights Leader:

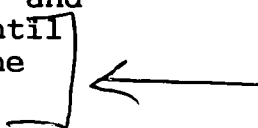
It is with deep gratitude that I thank you for your
loyal support. My good friend, Justin Dart, has shared
with me the tremendous results of his Justice '96 tour
to every state. I commend Justin and the many members
of the disability community who have worked so tirelessly
on my behalf.

When I was elected President, I issued a challenge to our
nation. I said that we must not rest until America has a
national disability policy based on three simple creeds:
inclusion, not exclusion; independence, not dependence;
and empowerment, not paternalism. However, last year,
Speaker Gingrich and Senator Dole sent me legislation
that could have eliminated the Medicaid guarantee of
health care and independence so important to individuals
with disabilities. I vetoed that legislation, and if they
try again to eliminate the guarantee or try to weaken the
Americans with Disabilities Act, I will veto it in a
heartbeat.

Vice President Gore and I are proud of our record of
achievement. It is impressive to note how often the combined
efforts of the disability community and our Administration
have provided more opportunities for all Americans. Our
joined forces were invaluable in protecting Medicaid and
Medicare; in ending preexisting condition exclusions in
health care; in ensuring that children with disabilities
are provided a free and appropriate education; in empowering
voters with disabilities by passing the Motor-Voter Act; in
helping families through the enactment of the Family and
Medical Leave Act; and in assuring disability access to

cyberspace through the Telecommunications Act. We make a good team.

Vice President Gore and I know that the job is far from finished. Millions of Americans still lack adequate health care services, real jobs, truly accessible communities, and equal access to the American Dream. We will not rest until all Americans with disabilities in institutions have the choice of living in their homes and communities with appropriate services.



Vice President Gore and I are proud of this Administration's highly qualified political appointees with disabilities, and we are proud of our work with you. You can send a strong message across America that the bridge to the twenty-first century must be accessible to all Americans. Americans with disabilities have a leadership role and a clear choice. You have the power to make the difference.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

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Fred Fay
jfa@mailbot.com