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Disabilities--President's Committee

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PRESIDENT'S
COMMITTEE
ON EMPLOYMENT
OF PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES

July 17, 2000

Mr. Bruce N. Reed
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
and Director of the Domestic Policy Council
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 2/WW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Bruce:

It is my pleasure to share with you a copy of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities' 2000 Educational Kit. The theme for this year's program, "Ability You Can Bank On," conveys a simple yet critical message: People with disabilities are ready, willing and able to be an essential part of our nation's human resource capital. With the country's lowest unemployment rate in 30 years, the federal government as the largest American employer must search for new labor pools to fill critical government jobs. Job candidates with disabilities offer a natural solution. As a group so often overlooked, those of us with disabilities – numbering 54 million strong – are among the most committed and motivated employees. And we want to earn a paycheck and pay taxes!

The 2000 Educational Kit has been constructed to provide you with materials to conduct year-round programs to ensure that persons with disabilities are part of the diversified workforce of this nation. I know we agree that it is essential to the future of this nation that we rededicate ourselves and our agencies to the utilization of the skills and strengths of every one of our citizens. I encourage you to focus on the abilities and accomplishments of individuals with disabilities as part of the July 26, 2000, celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and in October when National Disability Employment Awareness Month is observed.

I would further challenge you to make one of your agency's priorities for FY2001 an increase in the number of employees with disabilities. As the President has stated, "We need to make the federal government a model employer if we expect the rest of the nation to follow."

I look forward to hearing about your agency's activities and programs to make persons with disabilities part of your workforce team. If you need additional copies of the Educational Kit, contact Faith Kirk at 202/376-6200, Ext. 13, or by e-mail at kirk-faith@pcepd.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Coelho", is written over a stylized line graphic.

Tony Coelho
Chairman

Enclosure

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ABILITY YOU CAN BANK ON

for Disabilities
PCEPD

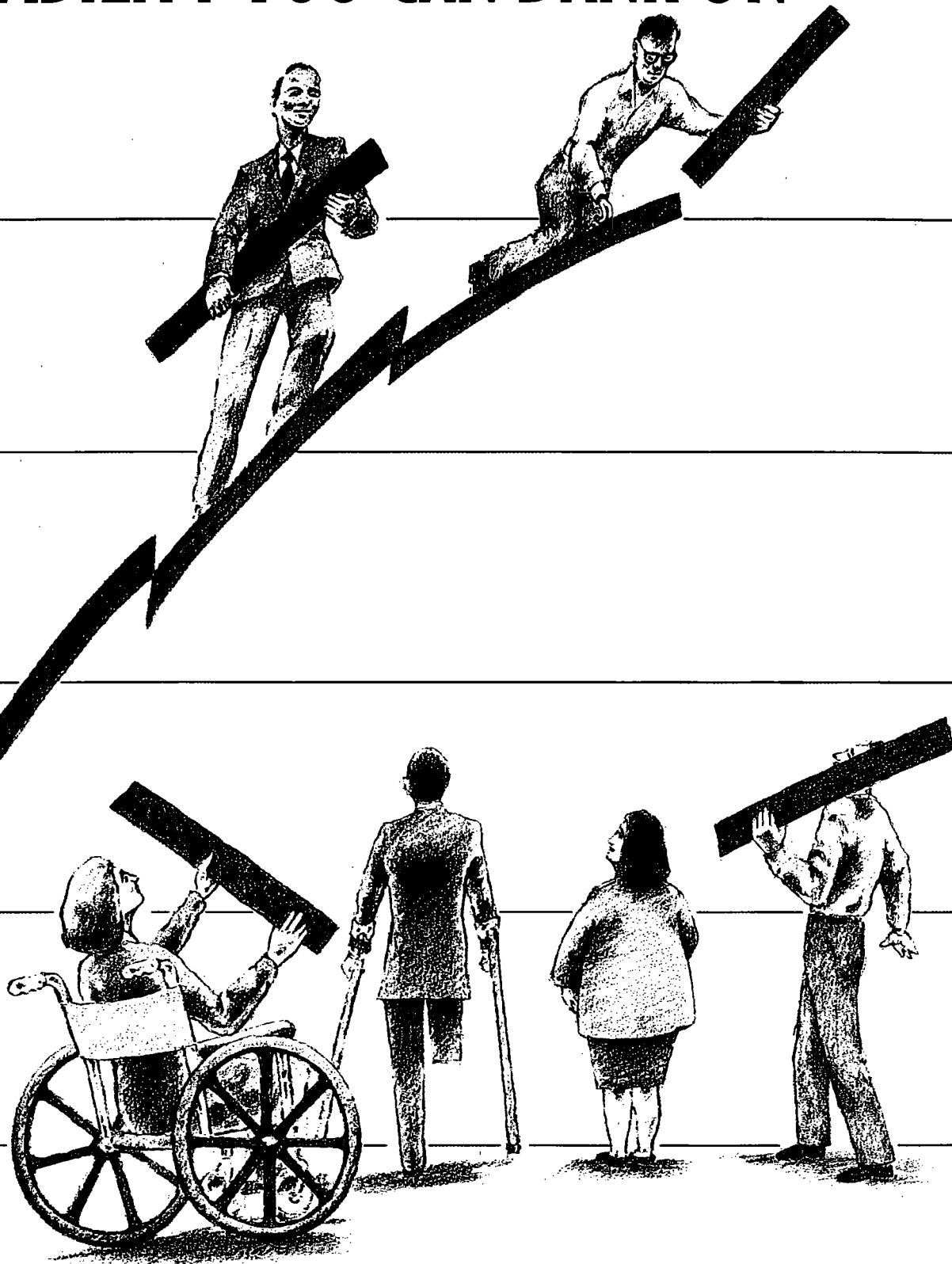
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PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
EDUCATIONAL KIT 2000