

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Counsel Office

Series/Staff Member: Jonathan Young

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 40193

FolderID:

Folder Title:

National Council on Disability

Stack:

S

Row:

112

Section:

1

Shelf:

5

Position:

2

- Advise the Interagency Disability Coordinating Council on priorities for its activities and review the recommendations of the council for legislative and administrative changes.
- Prepare and submit to the President and Congress an annual report, *National Disability Policy: A Progress Report*, and an annual report summarizing the activities and accomplishments of NCD.

Population Served and Current Activities

Many government agencies deal with issues and programs that affect people with disabilities, but NCD is the only federal agency charged with addressing, analyzing, and making recommendations on issues of public policy that affect people with disabilities regardless of age, disability type, perceived employment potential, economic need, functional ability, veteran status, or other individual circumstance.

NCD recognizes its unique opportunity to facilitate independent living, community integration, and employment opportunities for people with disabilities by ensuring an informed and coordinated approach to address their concerns and eliminate barriers to their active participation in community and family life.

NCD plays a major role in developing disability policy in America. In fact, the agency originally proposed what eventually became ADA.

Key issues include personal assistance services, health care reform, the inclusion of students with disabilities in high-quality programs in typical neighborhood schools, equal employment opportunity, community housing, monitoring the implementation of ADA, improving assistive technology, and ensuring that persons with disabilities, including minorities, fully participate in society.

National Council on Disability

1331 F Street, NW, Suite 1050
Washington, DC 20004-1107

(202) 272-2004 Voice

(202) 272-2074 TT

(202) 272-2022 Fax

<http://www.ncd.gov>

Andy Imparato

National Council on Disability

At a Glance



Background and Mission

The National Council on Disability (NCD) was initially established in 1978 as an advisory board within the Department of Education. The council is composed of 15 members, appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1984 transformed NCD into an independent agency.

The overall purpose of the agency is to promote policies, programs, practices, and procedures that guarantee equal opportunity for all people with disabilities, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability, and to empower them to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and inclusion and integration into all aspects of society.



Specific Duties

The statutory mandate of NCD includes the following duties:

- Review and evaluate federal policies, programs, practices, and procedures concerning people with disabilities, including programs established or assisted under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act.
- Review and evaluate all statutes and regulations pertaining to federal programs that assist people with disabilities, to assess their effectiveness in meeting the needs of these people.
- Review and evaluate emerging federal, state, local, and private sector policy issues that affect people with disabilities, including the need for and coordination of adult services, access to personal assistance services, school reform efforts and the impact of these efforts on persons with disabilities, access to health care, and policies that operate as disincentives for individuals to seek and retain employment.
- Make recommendations to the President, Congress, the Secretary of Education, the Director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, and other officials of federal agencies regarding ways to promote equal opportunity, economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and inclusion and integration into all aspects of society for Americans with disabilities.
- Provide Congress with advice, recommendations, legislative proposals, and other information that NCD or Congress deems appropriate.
- Gather information about the implementation, effectiveness, and impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.
- Advise the President, Congress, the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the Department of Education, and the Director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research on the development of programs to be carried out under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- Advise the Commissioner on the policies and conduct of the Rehabilitation Services Administration.
- Make recommendations to the Director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research on research affecting people with disabilities.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

VOLUME 1
NUMBER 1
JULY 1998

DISABILITY Agenda

A Quarterly Publication of the NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON DISABILITY

Page 2
**AMERICA'S
DISABILITY
AGENDA**

Page 3
**AMERICA'S
DISABILITY
INDICATORS**

Page 4
**PRODUCING
DISABILITY
AGENDA**

**Order your
copy of the
1998
N.O.D./
Harris
Survey of
Americans
with
Disabilities
see page 5**

MUCH ANTICIPATED 1998 SURVEY OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES COMPLETED

How do Americans with disabilities view themselves? How fully are people with disabilities participating in the American work force? How are disability identification and perceptions changing? What are the needs and desires of customers, employees, and neighbors with disabilities?

In January of this year, the National Organization on Disability (N.O.D.) announced the commissioning of public opinion research firm Louis Harris & Associates to survey the attitudes, opinions and lifestyles of Americans with disabilities.

The survey follows similar research conducted for N.O.D. by Harris in 1994 that found significant participation gaps between people with and without disabilities in many aspects of life (see related articles this issue). The 1994 survey is still widely cited by government and business and will serve as a benchmark against the 1998 survey to monitor and measure advances and changes in closing the participation gap.

A centerpiece of both the new survey and the 1994 survey is a series of "indicators" — key life activities such as employment, socializing with others, and getting an education — that demonstrate how people with disabilities are faring compared with their non-disabled counterparts. People with disabilities themselves have identified these important areas of participation in life that constitute the disability indicators. (See America's Disability Indicators article in this issue.)

For each of the ten "indicator" areas, a direct comparison can be made between Americans with and without disabilities to help describe how their lives differ. For example, 1994 survey data showed that 67 percent of people with disabilities are out of the labor force, compared with only 10 percent of the non-disabled population.

Continued on page 2

Acclaim for the N.O.D./ Harris Survey...

"Every company can benefit from understanding the perspective of people with disabilities... filled with valuable information for human resources and marketing directors..." **John Patten**, Former President, Business Week

"There is an unconscionable lack of hard information on disability issues. The N.O.D./Harris surveys provide crucial data that help debunk myths and stereotypes about people with disabilities..."

Peter Blanck, Director, Iowa Law, Health Policy, and Disability Center

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON
DISABILITY