



Public Policy and Advocacy

Forwarding disability policy initiatives to improve services and support.

The Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University is involved in local, state and national disability policy issues. Since 2005, we have been a member of the statewide Disability Policy Consortium (DPC) which consists of over 25 disability organizations. Together, with these organizations, we assist in the preparation of issue briefs in the areas of:

- Long-term services and supports
- Housing
- Education
- Employment
- Health Care

Given the reality that Texas ranks in the bottom percentile nationally in almost every aspect of services for people with disabilities, it is critical that public policy initiatives be thoroughly researched, written and presented in a way that is accessible for all public policy makers and the corresponding agency personnel who implement the legislation that affects people with disabilities. Staff in our Center have the capacity to produce and disseminate such public policy initiatives.

Since joining the DPC, Center staff have taken lead roles in the policy areas of community living and education and have provided support for other areas. Our goal is to impact public policy in such a way that it directly translates into better and more inclusive services for people with disabilities and their families.

“I realize now that direct services will never improve without the combined advocacy efforts of consumers, advocates and policy makers. By joining forces with researchers at major universities, we can confidently show the economic, efficient and human good of providing choice to consumers in a way that legislators can support.”

— *Texas Self-Advocate*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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