

# *Disability Advocacy Collaborative Bulletin*

*Disability Rights is a Civil Rights Issue*

*February, 2005*

If you want something to appear in the next edition or have an article you would like us to include, please send it to me at [jayne@kleinmanconsulting.com](mailto:jayne@kleinmanconsulting.com) or Jayne Kleinman, 55 Corrigan Ave., Meriden, CT 06451, 203-238-9391.

**ADDRESS CORRECTIONS AND REMOVALS:** If you are not interested in receiving this information or you would like this information sent to a different e-mail address, please e-mail Jayne Kleinman at [jayne@kleinmanconsulting.com](mailto:jayne@kleinmanconsulting.com) with your request, or simply reply to this message.

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## Calendar of Events

<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Event</i></b>	<b><i>Location</i></b>	<b><i>Sponsor</i></b>	<b><i>Contact</i></b>
<b>Feb. 5 9:30 am - 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Tax Information Workshop (see article below)</b>	<b>NEAT Marketplace, 120 Holcomb St. - Hartford</b>	<b>NEAT Marketplace</b>	<b>Neatmarketplace.org</b>
<b>Feb. 7 10 am</b>	<b>Disability Awareness Forum (see article below)</b>	<b>Legislative Office Building -Hartford</b>	<b>DD Network</b>	<b>Mary Eberle 860-679- 1500 or <a href="mailto:meberle@uchc.edu">meberle@uchc.edu</a></b>
<b>Feb. 15 10 pm</b>	<b>On a Roll on PBS</b>	<b>10 pm on PBS (television)</b>	<b>PBS (check local listings)</b>	
<b>Feb. 16 10 am</b>	<b>CT Lifespan Respite Coalition Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Office of Protection and Advocacy - Hartford</b>	<b>CT Lifespan Respite Coalition</b>	<b>Joy Liebeskind <a href="mailto:SJSJL@cox.net">SJSJL@cox.net</a></b>
<b>Feb. 22 5:30 pm</b>	<b>Focus Group on accessibility to mammograms for women with cognitive or intellectual impairments</b>	<b>Call for more information</b>	<b>CT Women and Disability Network, Susan G. Komen Foundation, Qualidigm</b>	<b>860-613-3685 or relay communications 1-800-842-9710</b>
<b>Feb. 26 10:00 – 1:00</b>	<b>Meeting of CT KASA (Kids as Self Advocates)</b>	<b>SERC Middletown/ Cromwell</b>	<b>CT Council on Developmental Disabilities</b>	<b><a href="mailto:yvette.johnson@po.state.ct.us">yvette.johnson@po.state. ct.us</a></b>
<b>Feb. 26 – March 2</b>	<b>ADAPT National Action</b>	<b>Washington, DC</b>	<b>ADAPT</b>	<b>512/442-0252 or 303/733-9324</b>
<b>Sat., March 19 10 am – 3 pm</b>	<b>2005 Recreation Services Fair for Persons with Disabilities</b>	<b>Education Connection 355 Goshen Rd. Litchfield</b>	<b>Litchfield County Autism Spectrum and Educ. Connection</b>	<b>John Hudlaw, 860-489-2790. <a href="mailto:johnhudlaw@msn.com">johnhudlaw@msn.com</a> <a href="mailto:ymcd1@excite.com">ymcd1@excite.com</a></b>
<b>June 3-4</b>	<b>Moving through Life Changes, Self Determination</b>	<b>Farmington Marriott</b>	<b>DD Council, DMR, and FAVOR</b>	<b>Email: <a href="mailto:yvette.johnson@po.state.ct.us">yvette.johnson@po.state. ct.us</a> - (860) 418-8709</b>
<b>July 25-28</b>	<b>Youth Leadership Forum</b>	<b>UConn campus - Storrs</b>	<b>CT YLF</b>	<b><a href="http://ctylf.org">ctylf.org</a></b>

## **Reminder #1: DD Network's 2<sup>nd</sup> Disability Awareness Forum**

Allen Bergman, President and CEO of the Anixter Center in Chicago, will be the featured speaker at the DD Network's 2<sup>nd</sup> Disability Awareness Forum on February 7, 2005. The event will begin at 10 am at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. The main issue to be discussed is the use of Medicaid waivers to support community living for individuals and families with disabilities. The DD network, which includes the University of Connecticut Center on Disabilities, the DD Council, and the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, is joined by co-sponsors state Senator Mary Ann Handley and state Representatives Peter Villano, Lile Gibbons and Mary Ann Carson.

## **Reminder #2: State Building Code up for Review**

The drafts of the 2005 State Building Code and the 2005 State Fire Safety Code have been approved by the Office of Policy and Management and by the Governor's Office. A public hearing has been scheduled for Friday, February 18, 2005 at 9:00 AM at the Police Academy in Meriden at which time written and oral public comment will be accepted. Drafts of the documents should be available on the DPS website shortly: [www.state.ct.us/dps/dfeps](http://www.state.ct.us/dps/dfeps) - follow the links to OSFM and OSBI.

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## **Coalition Formed to Address Preferred Drug Lists**

A broad coalition of over 50 organizations is supporting a state legislative proposal that could affect up to 450,000 state assistance recipients whose access to essential medications may be blocked by preferred drug lists. Individuals affected include about 200,000 Medicaid recipients already subject to such lists by Medicaid HMOs, and the elderly and disabled Medicaid, ConnPACE and SAGA recipients about to be subject to them.

The proposed bill will provide consumer protections that include:

- A simple system for requesting prior authorization (PA) for all non-listed drugs by phone or fax
- the filling of a temporary (up to fifteen days) supply of the original prescribed drug in all cases when the consumer has a prescription but not the

necessary PA

- written notice to both patient and prescriber when a drug cannot be filled as prescribed due to unmet PA requirements
- a short turnaround time (2 hours, as provided in other state law) for obtaining responses to PA requests
- an expedited appeal procedure, with the ability to maintain access to the originally prescribed drug during the appeal
- a prohibition on requiring PA again, once the state or the Medicaid HMO has already determined the individual's need for the specific drug

For more information or an update contact Sheldon Toubman at New Haven Legal Assistance Association - phone: (203) 946-4811, ext. 148 or e-mail:

[stoubman@nhlegal.org](mailto:stoubman@nhlegal.org)

### **More on State Legislation**

State Senators Edith Prague and Gary LeBeau have introduced a bill banning non-elderly persons with disabilities from living in state-funded elderly housing. This bill and several others that are similar are attempting to address what are perceived to be disruptions in elderly housing developments caused by younger people with disabilities. People with disabilities who are under age 62 will be able to continue to live in the complex, but will have to live in a separate area from elderly persons. Because the proposals have the potential to limit further an already dwindling supply of housing, some disability rights advocates are calling the proposal a case of discrimination and segregation.

Here is the bill's Statement of Purpose: "To establish that only those individuals sixty-two years of age or older may reside in state-funded housing projects for the elderly and require that any such elderly housing projects serving a non-elderly population delineate in some fashion the residential dwelling units that are to be occupied by elderly residents from those occupied by non-elderly residents."

### **And more ....**

State Senator Edith Prague has also introduced a bill amending the procedures for the admission of patients to nursing homes so as to incorporate additional information regarding high risk behaviors of any patient evaluated. In addition, the bill would require nursing home administrators to make a written determination that their nursing home has adequate programming and staff to provide for the care and safety of the patient to be admitted, as well as the other residents of the nursing home.

The bill's stated purpose is to ensure the safety and well-being of nursing home residents.

### **And more.....**

At the request of AARP Connecticut, state Sen. Biagio Ciotto has introduced a transportation bill that calls for the legislature to approve funding for a matching grant program created in a statute passed in 1999. Ciotto's bill requires the state to appropriate \$5 million to the Department of Transportation to enable cities and towns to improve transportation for people over 60 and people with disabilities. Under the new grant program, municipalities could use the money to buy buses or vans, or to hire drivers.

The law that the legislature passed six years ago approved creation of the grant program. At the time, lawmakers agreed to start the fund with \$5 million, but the money was never appropriated. AARP is calling on state lawmakers to keep the commitment they made six years ago. Securing the money for the grant program is the first step in AARP Connecticut's multi-year campaign to form an affordable, accessible transportation program for the state's seniors and people with disabilities.

A study released by AARP last year revealed that roughly half of all non-drivers age 65 and older remain home because they can't find a ride. "The number of 60-year-olds is only going to grow," said Connecticut AARP state president Lillian Brown, "along with the need for transportation." To volunteer to help AARP Connecticut in its transportation advocacy efforts, send an e-mail with your name and phone number to [ctaarp@aarp.org](mailto:ctaarp@aarp.org).

### **CT-N to Pilot "Echo-Captioning"**

The Connecticut Network (CT-N) is the state's version of C-SPAN, covering state government proceedings 24 hours a day on cable TV. Over the next few weeks, they will be testing closed captions on several of their programs to determine if new "echo-captioning" technology can be used successfully in their operation. CT-N has asked for help from the deaf and hard of hearing community to evaluate the quality and accuracy of their test captions.

Governor Rell's budget address on February 9, 2005 at 12:00 noon will be CT-N's first closed-caption test. We want to encourage everyone who uses closed-captioning regularly to watch CT-N's coverage of this event and complete a short survey afterward. The survey and information on where to find CT-N can be found online by going to:  
<http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/contact.asp?FormName=caption>

### **P&A's Bill Tracking Report on Line**

Beth Leslie, Legislation Liaison for the state Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, puts out a weekly bill tracking report. The report is on the P&A website and can be viewed at: <http://www.ct.gov/opapd/site/default.asp>. Just click on "Legislative Information" on the left side of the webpage and then click on "Legislation Update".

Within this week's report are several bills relating to latex and food allergies and the

administration of Epipens (see House Bills 5289, 5327, 5793, 5832, 6286, 6689). You can get the text of these bills and others on the website of the General Assembly at: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/>

### **Other News from the General Assembly**

Advocates should be aware that the Connecticut General Assembly web site has two new features. The first allows interested parties to track bills of special interest. The second, characterized as a Citizens Guide, is a resource to understanding the legislature and the legislative process.

Keep these phone numbers handy:

Senate Democrats: 1-800-842-1420  
House Democrats: 1-800-842-1902  
Senate Republicans: 1-800-842-1421  
House Republicans: 1-800-842-1423

### **CT KASA (Kids as Self Advocates)**

KASA is a national, grassroots network of youth with disabilities. In Connecticut, the Council on Developmental Disabilities started KASA several years ago to address the need for new and young disability rights leaders. The next KASA meeting is set for February 26, 2005. For more information, contact Yvette Johnson, Disability Policy Specialist for the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities, at [Yvette.Johnson@po.state.ct.us](mailto:Yvette.Johnson@po.state.ct.us), (860) 418-8709 or toll free at 1-800-653-1134.

### **Workshop on the Updated IDEA**

The Council for Exceptional Children will be conducting one-day workshops across the country to bring interested parties up to speed on the recent changes to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The workshop will be of special interest to parents, advocates, policy makers, educators, administrators, researchers, or anyone interested in the impact the new IDEA law will have on the education of students with disabilities. CEC will be conducting the workshop in Providence, Rhode Island on February 11, 2005. For more information or to register, go to [http://www.cec.sped.org/conventions/maryland\\_2005/pdfs/IDEA\\_workshops.pdf](http://www.cec.sped.org/conventions/maryland_2005/pdfs/IDEA_workshops.pdf)

### **New Waiver Approved for Connecticut**

On January 19, 2005 Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson approved a Connecticut demonstration plan to make it easier for individuals with disabilities to remain in their own homes by giving them greater control over a broad array of Medicaid services. The Connecticut waiver is the 10th program to be approved under HHS' new

Independence Plus initiative, which makes it easier for consumers to retain more control of home and community-based services.

The waiver, to be administered by the state Department of Mental Retardation, will provide services that include personal care, supported employment, group day services, vehicle modification, transportation, specialized medical equipment, companion services and family training. Participating individuals will be able to select and direct their personal assistants as well as manage many other services for themselves. The state plans to serve over 3,000 people in this demonstration project.

## **YLF Deadline Extended**

The deadline for high school sophomores and juniors with disabilities to apply to participate in the 2005 Youth Leadership Forum has been extended to February 18<sup>th</sup>. The Forum is scheduled for July 25-28 at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. Interested students and parents should contact Karen Halliday at the State Department of Education (860) 713-6923 or e-mail her at karen.halliday@po.state.ct.us.

## **Increasing Awareness and Accessibility in Services for Women with Disabilities**

Target audience - service providers: News from Shauna Henry, Disabilities Coordinator at the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV): “Below you will find a link to a survey of provider agencies I am conducting as part of the ‘Connecticut Initiative to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities’. This is a two year grant that was awarded to the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women. CCADV is working with the Connecticut Women's Consortium, the Connecticut Women and Disabilities Network, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Coalition of Connecticut to focus on improving services for women with disabilities who are victims of domestic violence.

I encourage you to participate in taking this survey if you work in the fields of social service, advocacy, mentoring, counseling, community outreach/education, legal aid, human services, residential living, or if you are a municipal leader. Please forward this e-mail to all appropriate staff members whose feedback you feel would be of benefit to the production of this project. If you have any questions, or would like to receive a hardcopy of this survey, please contact me at (860) 282-7899, or email at [shenry@ctcadv.org](mailto:shenry@ctcadv.org).

Visit this site to begin survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=56022752871>

\*Please Note: Surveys will be available online until February 21st, 2005”

Target audience - women with disabilities: “A second survey has been created to aid in meeting the objectives of the Connecticut Initiative by assessing the needs of women with

disabilities. The information provided in this survey will be used as a tool for developing creative solutions to safety. This will also help to strengthen advocates and professionals' skills in identifying barriers to safety for women with disabilities.

If you are a woman with a disability and would like to participate in this survey please visit this link <http://www.ctcadv.org/Website/Disability%20flyer.htm>. If you have any questions please contact the Connecticut Women and Disabilities Network: (860) 297-4375 (Voice); (860) 297-4380 (TTY); and (toll free) 1-800-842-7303.”

## **Two Job Announcements**

Non Profit Center for Independent Living is seeking Independent Living Advocate to provide information & referral, direct services, advocacy and skills training to multi-culturally diverse people with disabilities and their families. Experience in working with people with disabilities required. Bilingual and/or knowledge of sign language required. First hand knowledge of disability preferred. EOE committed to workplace diversity. Send Resume & three letters of reference to Executive Director, Independence Unlimited, 151 New Park Ave., Suite D, Hartford, CT. 06106 or fax (860) 523-5603. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Closing date: February 14, 2005

The Americans with Disabilities Act Coalition of Connecticut (ADACC), a private, non-profit coalition, seeks a committed dynamic individual as project director. ADACC is looking for someone with:

- ◆ In-depth knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act and ability to provide technical assistance and training;
- ◆ Excellent written and oral communication skills;
- ◆ Experience with non-profit agency operations;
- ◆ Strong grant writing and computer skills;
- ◆ Ability and/or experience to develop marketing, legislative and advocacy strategies; and
- ◆ Ability to build alliances with disability advocates and covered entities.

Personal experience with a disability is preferred. Salary is commensurate with experience and hours worked; low to mid \$30's. Hours: 20-30 per week. Please send resume by February 16, 2005 to Evelyn Oliver Knight, ADACC Search Committee Chair at BRS/DSS: By Fax – 860-424-4871; By E-mail – [evelyn.knight@po.state.ct.us](mailto:evelyn.knight@po.state.ct.us).

## **Energy Assistance Available**

Applications have been taken since November 1, 2004 for the state's Energy Assistance Program. The deadline for applying is March 15, 2005. Interested individuals should contact the nearest Community Action Agency, call Infoline (211), or call the Department

of Social Services (DSS) Energy Line at 1-800-842-1132. The State has received an additional \$3 million from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, enabling DSS to increase the assistance benefit.

### **Focus Groups on Barriers to Getting a Mammogram**

Thanks to a grant from the Susan G. Komen Foundation, the Connecticut Women with Disabilities Network and Qualidigm are conducting a series of focus groups involving women across the disability spectrum over the age of 40 to discuss the barriers to getting a mammogram. Eligible volunteers who participate will receive \$50. The tentative date for the next focus group is February 22 (February 28th snow date). The February 22 focus group targets women who have cognitive or intellectual impairments. If you are interested please call 860-613-3685.

### **Career Opportunities to Support Persons with Disabilities**

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee will hold an informational hearing on Thursday, February 10th at 10 AM in Room 2B of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. The hearing will discuss developing a competent and adequate workforce to provide supports and services for persons with developmental and behavioral disabilities and their families throughout the lifespan, through the coordination and expansion of state and local training, education, recruitment and retention efforts.

### **Do You File a Tax Return?**

It's that time! Do you file taxes? Do you or a dependent have a disability? Do you have questions on what is deductible? Attend an upcoming workshop and get the advice of a tax expert! You'll file the smartest tax return ever!

The New England Assistive Technology Marketplace will be presenting "A Tax Information Workshop" for individuals with disabilities and their families on Saturday February 5, 2005. Armand Legault, a retired tax audit supervisor for the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services, will offer the workshop, which will run from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Registration is required. Please call: 860-243-2869 or 866-526-4492 or go to [www.neatmarketplace.org](http://www.neatmarketplace.org)

Workshop Topics will include: How to claim impairment-related work expenses for a person with disabilities, How to get tax breaks associated with age or disability, How to claim deductions for medical expenses, What are your tax obligations as a Personal Care Assistant (PCA) employer, How to claim \$1000 property tax exemption, and What deductions are possible for adapted vehicles. The workshop will be held at: The NEAT Marketplace, 120 Holcomb Street, Hartford, CT 06112 (corner of Holcomb & Coventry Streets).

## **Free Tax Guide on Disabilities**

The parents of a child with a disability is entitled to many income tax deductions they might not be aware of, such as "Medical Expenses," provided the expenses are made to alleviate their child's mental or physical condition. For a free, complete list of what is deductible, send a 37 cent stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope to the Connecticut Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities (CACLD)/Tax Guide, 25 Van Zant St., Suite 15-5, E. Norwalk, CT 06855. The CACLD is a regional, non-profit organization that supports individuals, families, and professionals by providing information, education, and consultation while promoting public awareness and understanding. CACLD's goal is to ensure access to the resources needed to help children and adults with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders achieve their full potential.

## **Hartford Commission Members Needed**

The Hartford Commission on Disability Issues is looking for people interested in serving on the Commission. The Commission meets once a month at City Hall. For additional information, please contact: Lillian Ruiz, Human Relations Director at (860) 543-8595 [lruiz@ci.hartford.ct.us](mailto:lruiz@ci.hartford.ct.us)

## **Supreme Court to Hear ADA Case on Cruise Vessels**

On February 28, the U.S. Supreme Court case will hear oral arguments in *Spector v. Norwegian Cruise Line*, a case concerning the ADA's application to foreign cruise vessels sailing in U.S. waters. The case seeks to determine what Congress intended when it passed the landmark American Disabilities Act in 1990 barring discrimination against people with disabilities in the enjoyment of services in places of "public accommodation."

Disability activists who boarded a Norwegian Cruise Line in Houston in 1998, say they weren't given adequate access to ship pools, restaurants and emergency equipment. In other situations, they alleged they were forced to pay additional fees for wheelchair accessible rooms, inhibiting their rights to "participate fully in society." Norwegian Cruise Line counters that only an express statement of Congress can justify imposing the U.S. law on a ship that sails under a foreign flag, even if it is docked at a U.S. port. The federal law is silent as to whether foreign cruise lines are covered by the ADA.

The case is an appeal from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals based in New Orleans, which ruled in January that foreign-flag cruise ships are not covered by the ADA. Both the cruise lines and disability groups then urged the Supreme Court to take the case, noting a conflict with an 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision in 2000 saying foreign ships must comply with the law. In that lawsuit, a Florida resident said she had to pay additional fees for a room with disabled access.

"Making cruise ships fully accessible to people with disabilities makes good business sense," the brief from Paralyzed Veterans of America and other groups stated, citing an expected surge in the disabled population due to aging baby boomers. The case is Spector v. Norwegian Cruise Line, 03-1388.

## **The Pros and Cons of Revamping the ADA**

The National Council on Disability (NCD), an independent federal agency whose 15 members were nominated by President Bush and confirmed by the Senate, called on the Bush administration and Congress to support legislation that will "right the course" of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and protect the civil rights of people with disabilities.

For the past two years, NCD has conducted an in-depth analysis of the Supreme Court's interpretations of the ADA. While some of the Court's decisions clearly liberated people with disabilities, other rulings strayed from the ADA's core principles and objectives.

Leaders of several national disability groups are hesitant to endorse the recommendation to rewrite the ADA next year. Some fear that if Congress takes up the council's proposed "ADA Restoration Act," it might, in the end, make the law weaker, instead of stronger. Others question opening up the ADA in the midst of the current political climate. Some business owners or employer advocate groups may try to enact provisions that will save businesses money at the expense of persons with disabilities. For example, one such proposal includes a provision requiring a person with a disability to give specific notice to an entity that violates his or her rights, allowing said entity to remedy any violation before a lawsuit can be filed. Provisions such as this would render the ADA virtually useless. Rather than deterring discrimination, proposals like this one give license to "discriminate until caught."

For more information, contact Mark Quigley or Julie Carroll at 202-272-2004 or 202-272-2074 TTY. Or visit the National Council on Disability website at <http://www.ncd.gov>.

## **Final Regulations Released**

In mid-January the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) unit issued final regulations to implement the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvements and Modernization Act of 2003. The regulations, fact sheets on specific issues and other background papers can be accessed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarerereform/pdbma/general.asp>.

## **New Web Site on Medicare Policy**

The United Spinal Association, a national disability rights organization, has announced the creation of a new Web site dedicated to reversing Medicare's in-the-home policy, which restricts beneficiaries' access to needed wheelchairs and scooters. Rightwheelchair.org, a joint project of United Spinal Association, ITEM Coalition and the Clinician Task Force, will serve as a vehicle for inspiring grassroots activities and as a clearinghouse for information regarding Medicare's unfair coverage and administrative policies relating to mobility devices. Visitors to <http://Rightwheelchair.org> will find important background information on Medicare's in-the-home restriction and they will have an opportunity to share their experiences in trying to obtain a wheelchair or scooter for themselves, a family member, or patient.

"The 'in-the-home' restriction severely impedes the health and independence of United Spinal's members and all individuals with disabilities, as it confines people to the four walls of their homes and does not take into account the need for people to access their physician's office, pharmacy, grocery store, bank or place of worship," said Kim Ruff-Wilbert, policy analyst for United Spinal Association. "It is our goal that through this Web site and the sharing of information, we can change this restrictive policy."

For more information please contact Kim Ruff-Wilbert at (202) 331-1002 or e-mail her at [LegislativeAlerts@unitedspinal.org](mailto:LegislativeAlerts@unitedspinal.org).

### **Social Security Reform: The Potential Impact on People Who Become Disabled**

There is widespread discussion in recent weeks of President Bush's plan to move Social Security toward a system of partial private accounts. Often lost in the discussion is the potential impact on people with disabilities in the Social Security Disability Insurance program.

Retirement and disability benefits are calculated using the same formula, so if future retirement benefits are cut, then disability benefits also would be reduced -- unless the programs are somehow separated. It is critical how investment accounts would be structured for people with disabilities, especially if they are injured at a young age or are financially dependent on a parent. Disabled beneficiaries typically work less and need benefits sooner, so the accounts would not provide enough income to them.

Although President Bush has said he has no intention of cutting benefits for people with disabilities or otherwise changing the Social Security programs for people with disabilities and survivors, it is imperative to keep our eyes open wide on the federal discussion regarding social security.

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**How can you find your federal Representatives and Senators? Go to [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org) and find the box under the heading “Write Elected Officials”. Type in your Zip code and press the “Enter” key. Then, when the names of your elected officials come on the screen, click on the word “Info” under the name of the elected official you want to contact. The telephone number will be listed on the page that comes up next. To find your CT representatives call the Capitol Switchboard at 1-888-818-6641, visit [cga.ct.gov/](http://cga.ct.gov/) (note—this is a new website address) or enter your Zip code at [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org).**